



# The BAYONET



Vol. 2018, No 3

Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc. Newsletter

Fall 2018



HERE RESTS IN  
HONORED GLORY  
AN AMERICAN  
SOLDIER  
KNOWN BUT TO GOD

AMA Alumni Association and Foundation are laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Friday, November 16, 1:15 PM, at Arlington National Cemetery. All alumni and friends of AMA are encouraged to attend this honorable ceremony.

**Mark "Henry" Femrite** - One of AMA's staunchest supporters, passed away this summer, after a long battle against cancer. A fitting memorial can be found on page 30. And you will find additional photos of Henry sprinkled throughout this edition. His wit, humor, common sense, and constant presence will be missed by one and all.

## Editorial by B.J. d'Orsay, Editor

Nobody likes change, right? Most of the time it is beyond our control. What we can control, however, is how we react to change. This is what I want to discuss briefly.

As many of you are aware, we have had some personnel changes this summer. Crysta resigned to follow a different path, and along the way she is working towards her long wished for Masters Degree in History, and owning and operating her own antique store.

Victor Gomez decided being a Trustee was just not quite the right way for him to serve his alma mater, so he resigned from the Board. He is still volunteering as docent and taking photos as he has done for years.

We have a new interim director in place at the museum. During the transition, our faithful alumni living in the area came to our rescue. Everything is back to near normal. All the bills are paid, and the artifacts are safe and sound.

The Trustees have things well in hand, and you can be sure that we are in a state of "business as usual".

If things are not to your liking, ask yourself, "Do I love AMA, or do I love just the people serving AMA?" Do not give up or pull your support of AMA when things change.

Please, in times like these that we need your support more than ever.

The job of the Trustees is to manage the organization. They need every manner of your support to carry out this mission.

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# Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

Dear Brothers & Friends,

September 2018

It has been a long hot summer on the East coast, but in a few short weeks it will be time to complain about the cold weather.

As this year closes we have seen many friends pass in the past twelve months. Probably one of the most active, **Mark Henry Femrite, '72**, whose enthusiasm for Augusta Military Academy as well as his leadership, will be long remembered. Henry, as some knew him by Mark was a member of the Roller Society who bequeathed funds to support the Museum.

Other dear friends that have departed from my era, **Jim Hash, '72, Willis Walker, '71, and George Robin Harris, '70**, (my roommate). We all have fond memories of all these great people and we will feel their loss as we do **Ben Zinkhan, '60**.

I want to personally appeal to all who are not currently contributing to the Foundation. We need more members in the 300-club giving \$50.00 a month for 10 months. If you are not prepared to contribute \$50.00 a month we will gladly accept \$25.00 a month. Any contribution no matter how small is greatly appreciated and we certainly need everyone to help. All of this can be done by automatic credit card deduction or through PayPal from the website. I also would like to remind those that are contributing to please contact the museum when the status of your credit card changes.

## Reunion 2019

Your association has started work on the 2019 reunion which will be 25-28 April. Our theme for Reunion 2019 will be remembering D-Day on the 75th anniversary

of the landing. There will be no change in the Thursday evening event at Staunton Country Club. The Friday Bus Tour will be to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA. Golf and Sporting Clays will remain the same. However, it is not likely we will use Holiday Inn for Reunion 2019 Headquarters due to price increase on rooms and facility use as well as restrictions imposed.

This year our guest speaker will be **Command Sergeant Major Gary L. Littrel, Medal of Honor Winner**. **Chief Warrant Officer David Cooper** will also be with us this weekend. A special thanks goes out to **Tom Del Valle** for making this happen.

We will have the Silent Auction and Raffle again this year. Thanks to **Tom Del Valle** (again) we will raffle off a very unique AMA saber. There will be a raffle for two weapons, a 45-caliber pistol and a 30-caliber Savage Rifle with scope. Again, special thanks to **Tom Del Valle** and to **Tom Kennedy** and his wife **Rose Marie** respectively.

All proceeds from this auction and raffle will go to the operation of our museum. Keep in mind the superb job the Ladies of AMA did last year with the baskets for the silent auction. Find a great item to contribute and let's improve our success from last year.

Lastly, we continue to need docents for the museum. All trustees and directors are now required to perform this duty four days a year. We are asking our alumni that are within 3 or 4 hours to volunteer for two days a year.

Have a great Fall and plan to come to the reunion in 2019.

Sincerely,  
Steve Trent



**Help Wanted.** Our monthly email newsletter is the main method of communication between our Board of Trustees, The Chairman, and you, our friends and alumni of Augusta Military Academy. We want to increase our readership to include children and grandchildren of alumni, and friends and acquaintances that may be interested in the AMA story and Mission.

Please send your name and email address to the Director of the museum at [museum@AMAalumni.org](mailto:museum@AMAalumni.org).



Volume 2018, Number 3

Newsletter of the Augusta Military Academy

Alumni Foundation, Inc.

PO BOX 100

Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100

Editor: B.J. d'Orsay, '70

The Bayonet is distributed to approximately 1500 alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to the AMA Museum, PO BOX 100, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0100 or by email to [Museum@AMAalumni.org](mailto:Museum@AMAalumni.org)

Please provide us with your 9-digit zip code! The Bayonet welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi and preferably in TIFF format. Printed color photos are also welcome.

Mail or email information to:

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Phone 806-790-7092

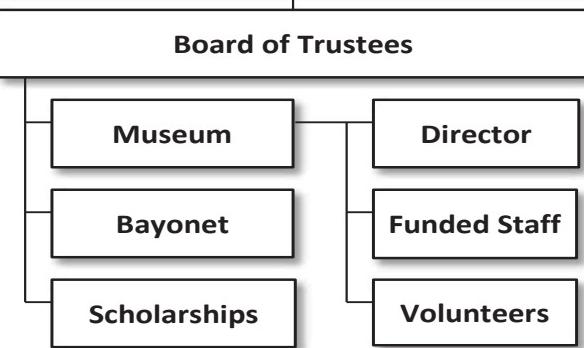
email: [Bayonet@AMAalumni.org](mailto:Bayonet@AMAalumni.org)

## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Organizational Chart

AMA alumni have two organizations which represent the interests of our school and its matchless legacy.

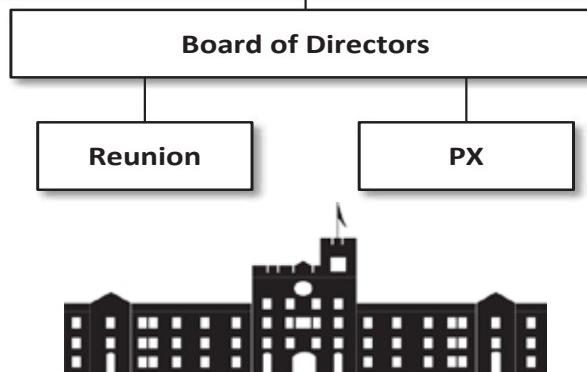
### Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation

is governed by a Board of Trustees responsible for the operation of the AMA Museum, publication of the newsletter, *The Bayonet*, and manage several scholarship programs.



### Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association

Is governed by a Board of Directors who plan and execute the annual alumni reunions. The Association also operates the PX where can be found many unique-to-AMA items.



## Augusta Military Academy Alumni Foundation, Inc.

When **Crysta Stephenson** was employed by the AMA Alumni Foundation, the museum was already established and open to the public. Under her watchful eye, the museum and its operations steadily improved!

Crysta began working at AMA in October of 2008. During her time at AMA she implemented procedures for the displaying and storing our many artifacts. She implemented administrative procedures that improved efficiency and lead the way in the effort to receive accreditation for our museum.

She spent countless hours on the accreditation process and helped steer the BOT in the right direction to achieve that goal. She was familiar with nonprofit protocol and procedures as well. She was constantly attending training and educational seminars improving her skills and pursuing her love of history.

While working at a small museum requires many skills, Crysta accepted each challenge head on and wore many different hats. Administrative, bookkeeping, fund raising, cataloging artifacts and documents, research and reunion preparation were just a few of the tasks she performed and performed well.

Through all the hard work and long days, she managed to meet her significant other through AMA. **Robin Nin,**

Her many contributions cannot be overstated.

'84, and Crysta have been together for some time now and they are a great couple!

Crysta had a passion for AMA and was a relative of the Roller Family. She enjoyed the museum and the people she met while working there. Her many contributions cannot be overstated. After almost 10 years at the museum, she decided it was time for a change. She will be working toward her master's degree at James Madison University. She has also decided to fulfill her dream of owning a business and is in the process of opening an antique shop in Staunton!

She was a valuable asset to our organization and she will be missed. The AMA Family wishes her the best of luck with her education and business endeavor. Her efforts will be hard to replicate, and she will be missed.

Thanks to her, our museum has improved and truly become a standalone museum that we can all be proud of!

**THANK YOU CRYSTA!!!!!!**

Ed Rogerville  
Chairman



# Ladies of AMA

## Introducing Maggie Belle Roller Robinson by Nancy Botchellor

**Maggie Belle Roller** was born in Fort Defiance, Virginia in August of 1875. She was the oldest child of Rosabell Moorman Roller and Professor Charles Roller, the founder of Augusta Military Academy. Her siblings were Dr. William Roller, Colonel Thomas Roller, and Major/Colonel/General Charles Roller.

Maggie Belle was raised in the home which is now The Augusta Military Museum. It is believed she was home-schooled until she was 16 and then attended Mary Baldwin Seminary.

In 1911, Warren S. "Ron" Robinson graduated from VMI and came to AMA as an ROTC officer. He left Virginia to serve during World War I and returned to Fort Defiance in 1919. Upon his return to AMA, he proposed to Maggie Belle, who was 20 years his senior. They married and together went to The Philippines, where he was stationed.

When Colonel Robinson completed his military assignment, he and Maggie Belle returned to Fort Defiance and resumed their life together once again, calling their home the house where the Roller children were raised. Ron was fondly known as "Boots" and he became the Commandant at AMA until his death in 1947.

**Linda Livick**, who has many fond memories of earlier days at AMA, remembers that Maggie was full of life. She enjoyed a good time, liked her jewelry, big fancy hats, her Persian cat Smokey, her cigarettes which she held in a fancy case, and her gin. Maggie liked to listen in on party line calls and often approached Linda with questions. Linda knew she was being monitored with great love.

Maggie Belle remained very visible and involved on the AMA campus in her later years. She was a sponsor at the local YMCA working with Cadets on programs. The YMCA met every Sunday. Maggie Belle also housed in her spare bedrooms and cared for the young ladies who attended dances at AMA.



This 1927 photograph of Maggie Bell is typical, showing her love of pearls, hats, and fur scarfs.

She was a talented pianist and singer, leading her to become the organist at The Old Stone Church until her death in 1956.

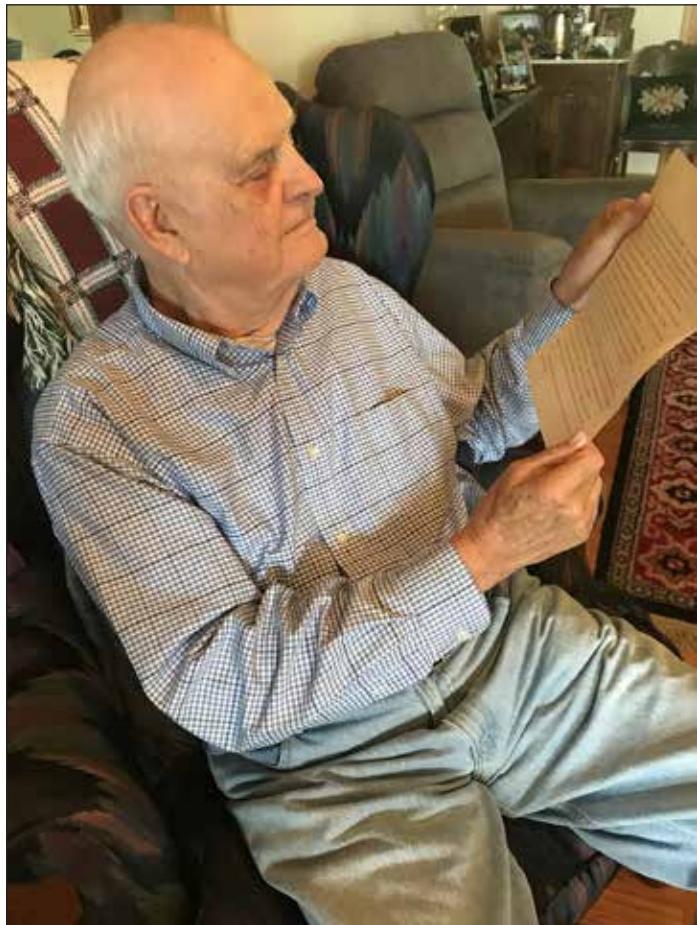
Maggie Belle lived a full, fun, amazing, and amusing life and we warmly honor her lively presence in the AMA community.

*Ladies of AMA* is a series of articles researched and written by Nancy Botchellor about the women connected with Augusta Military Academy who have had a significant impact on the school and the cadets. Previous articles:

Linda Roller Livick - Fall 2017  
Janet Campbell Stephenson - Winter 2018  
Crysta Stephenson - Summer 2018

# A story, 71 years in the making

By Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Duus



Malcolm Livick reviews the remarks he made during a memorial ceremony at Harrisonburg High School, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in 1947, in his home in Fort Defiance, Virginia, June 28. More than 71 years ago, Livick's school dedicated a plaque to 27 former students from his school who had died in World War II. One of those men, 1st Lt. William W. Shank, was recently identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, and will be buried in Harrisonburg, July 14. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kristen Duus, DPAA)

FORT DEFIANCE, VA, July 13, 2018 — **Malcolm Harris Livick** was a teenager the first time he heard the name **William W. Shank**. He didn't think about the name again for 71 years.

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Shank, a native of Harrisonburg, Virginia, was a pilot with the 338th Fighter Squadron, 55th Fighter Group, 66th Fighter

Wing, 8th Fighter Command, 8th Air Force. He was killed in action on Nov. 13, 1943, while flying his P-38 on a mission to Bremen Germany. Due to enemy-occupied territory, his remains could not be recovered.

Livick moved to Harrisonburg as an adolescent, attending Harrisonburg High School. On May 30, 1947, the school dedicated a plaque to 27 former students of Harrisonburg High School, all who had given their lives during the war. Shank's name was included on the list, 23rd, in an alphabetic honor roll. During the ceremony, Livick, a senior, was selected to accept the plaque on behalf of the school.

*"The idea of this memorial plaque started in the Boys Hi-Y Club of this high school," said Livick during his 1947 speech. "When the boys started plans to raise money for the memorial, the town became interested. In 1947, this memorial was dedicated to the honor and memory of the 27 boys from our high school who gave their lives for our freedom."*

*"The names inscribed on this plaque shall not be forgotten," continued the speech. "May the cause for which they so valiantly fought, the cause of liberty, justice and tolerance, be so inscribed on our hearts and minds that through our influence and our love for mankind, these, our fellow students, may not have died in vain."*

Livick then went on to live his life. He spent four years in the United States Air Force, met the love of his life, Linda, raised five children and held down a 46-year career at **Augusta Military Academy** and Blue Ridge Community College, before retiring in 2001.

All the while, Shank remained unaccounted for. Missing for decade after decade.

Then, in March 2018, a morning news quip came on the radio. The news stated that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) had identified the remains of Shank. He was no longer missing and would be returned to his hometown.

"My first thought was I wonder if he was any kin to Pete Shank," said Livick, referring to a high school friend. While Livick was friends with Pete generations earlier, he was never aware that Pete had an older brother, much less a brother who was killed during the war.

Livick rummaged through decades worth of

Reprinted from Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1574409/a-story-71-years-in-the-making/>

*Continued on page 6*

## Livick Continued from page 5

documents, finding the original program and speech he had given during the ceremony seven decades earlier.

*"I wish I had better memory of it,"* said Livick, sitting in an easy chair at his home in Fort Defiance, Virginia, less than 18 miles south of where he spent his teenage years.

Overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains, Livick's home shows time reminiscent of his military service, his children, grandchildren, and beloved pets. Now, at 89, he reflected on memories that precede all the memories on his walls.

While he may not reach back to 1947 as well as he once could, a slight tear welled up in his eyes as he recognized that another family, a family he connected to so long ago, was finally bringing their pilot home.

*"To be able to find these remains and give them back to their families—to give these families closure, it is so wonderful,"* said Livick.

However, Livick feels an even closer connection than just linking back to his speech. His son, **Todd**, is the Outreach and Communications Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

*"I called Todd and let him know that William Winston Shank's remains had been identified,"* said Livick. *"He said, 'I know, Dad, we sent that out.'"*

Having a son who works within the agency that finds remains of missing war dead has changed the elder Livick's perspective. Though always grateful for the mission at hand, he now has a more thorough understanding and appreciation for what DPAA does.

*"Nothing is more important than bringing our men home to their families,"* said Livick.

Shank will be buried July 14 in his hometown with full military honors, bringing both his and Livick's story full circle.



Gen. Larry Nicholson, '75, brought his family to the museum just as this edition of the Bayonet went to press.

Left: Larry and Kevin and sons Logan (older) and Grant.

Right: Left to right: Drew and Becky Watson, Larry, Logan, Debbie, Kimber, Grant and Kevin Nicholson.

## Transition Thanks!

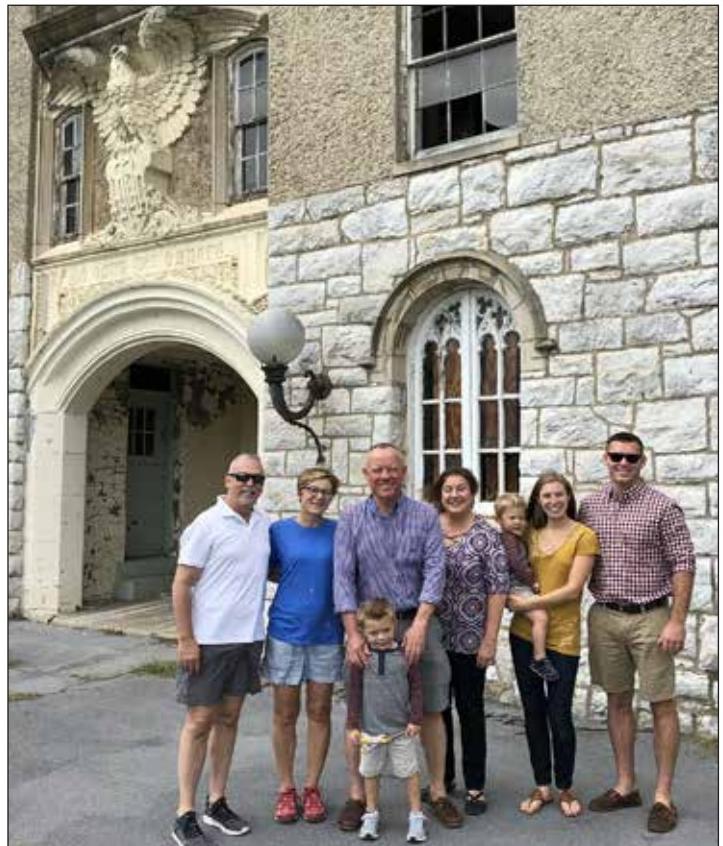
The Trustees and Directors of AMA would like to extend a special "thank you" to **Don Studer, B.J. d'Orsay, Ed Click** and **Steve Traylor** for their efforts this summer towards keeping the Museum and Alumni Office running.

Don showed impeccable timing with his unexpected presence at the end of June! **Victor Gomez** was on vacation and **Crysta Stephenson** had resigned, leaving only **Morgan Liddick** at the museum. As always, Don stepped up and performed all the duties needed to keep the museum open to visitors. He changed his travel plans to help us stay on track. After all these years he's still looking out for us!

B.J. monitored the email and phones remotely from Texas while performing his regular duties

Steve Traylor and Ed Click ensured that the bills were paid, deposits at the bank were made, the mail was retrieved and credit cards were processed. They were on campus several times coordinating their efforts.

Without the extra effort of these dedicated men, we would have been in a bind while we were searching for new employees. If something fell through the cracks during this time please accept our apologies but all in all they did an outstanding job!



# General Larry D. Nicholson retires from the United States Marine Corps after 39 years of service to his country

*"I came in the marine corps for four years.*

*That's all I was going to do. I was going to do four years and get out. And before you know it, you wake up and you've been in the Marine Corps a long time. A lot of young marines ask me, 'Hey, when did you decide to make it a career?' And my answer is, 'Hey, I'm still kinda thinking about it.'*

*I never woke up one day and said, 'Hey I'm going to be a career marine.' Everyone comes into the marine corps for a different reason. But there are some things that unite us. What keeps us tied together is a sense of purpose, a sense of mission, and a belief that we can all be better than our individual selves when you're part of a great team. I am very, very grateful for the opportunity to command the thirty thousand marines and sailors of III MEF. It's an amazing theater of 26 partner nations. I think what I'm most proud of is that I go to sleep at night knowing that if the bell rings we're ready. They're well*

*rehearsed, they're well trained, they're well led. The fundamental reasons that connects all of us is the people. It's the men and women you're around. It's the marines and sailors that you're around on a daily basis. And I think that's a very powerful statement about who we are as a community. I feel incredibly grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to have been a Marine for 39 years and be in the organization that I'm in with young men and women like the ones that are surrounding me today."*

Gen. Larry D. Nicholson



III MEF Change of Command ceremony in Japan.

The Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force requests the pleasure of your company at the III Marine Expeditionary Force Change of Command Ceremony at which Lieutenant General Lawrence D. Nicholson, United States Marine Corps will relinquish command to Lieutenant General Eric M. Smith, United States Marine Corps on Thursday, the second of August at seven o'clock in the evening, Camp Courtney Bowl.  
\*Inclement Weather at the Camp Courtney Theater by RSVP invite only  
Reception immediately following the ceremony at the Tengen Castle, Camp Courtney.

Kindly RSVP by Friday, 27 July 2018  
Maj Sung Park, III MEF Protocol Officer  
sung.c.park@usmc.mil/DSN 622-7701

Attire:  
Uniform of the Day or Appropriate Civilian Attire

# Reunion 2019

Time to start thinking about our 2019 Reunion or as a minimum pencil it in your calendar. Certainly, we are all pretty busy these days yet to my way of thinking, finding time to visit with old friends especially as we get older ourselves seems to reinvigorate your soul and frankly it's great fun. A bit of a time capsule and one that frankly only your AMA brothers can fully share and appreciate.

So, having said all that, let me spotlight just a few things your Board of Directors have been working on for the 2019 Reunion. Some of these have been nailed down, others are in the works and we are optimistic we can confirm them soon for us all to enjoy.

## ~ Speakers ~

We have **confirmed** two speakers during the 2019 Reunion. First is Medal of Honor recipient Command Sergeant Major **Gary Littrell**.

He “is a retired United States Army Command Sergeant Major who, while a Sergeant First Class serving as an advisor to Army of the Republic of Vietnam’s Ranger units during the Vietnam War, acted with extraordinary courage during a four-day seige on his battalion.” Littrell was the last surviving advisor. Over four days, “Littrell kept the battalion inspired, directed artillery and air support, distributed ammunition, strengthened faltering defenses cared for the wounded and shouted encouragement to the Vietnamese in their own language.”

Read his full story here:  
[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary\\_L.\\_Littrell](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_L._Littrell)



Our second distinguished speaker is Distinguished Service Cross recipient **David Cooper**. During his service in Operation Desert Storm in 1991, as well as in the Global War on Terrorism, Chief Warrant Officer Cooper was also awarded the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Medal.



*“On 14 May 2006, while serving as an AH-6 Flight Lead Pilot while operating against an entrenched enemy force during a daylight raid in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Chief Warrant Officer Cooper continued to make successive assaults in support of the ground forces, without regard for his own personal safety. His actions destroyed several enemy positions, enabling the ground forces to consolidate into defensive positions. Without Chief Warrant Officer Five Cooper’s courage and gallantry under hostile fire, the ground forces would have sustained significant casualties.”*

Read his full story here:  
<https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/3663>

## ~ Auction ~

Let’s talk about the auction. Auction items are an important aspect of the reunion. Not only can you usually walk away with a nice item at a good price but it also helps us generate revenue, so we can keep our museum up and running for years to come.

We are attempting to secure a cruise ship package for two and I’m optimistic we will nail it down in short order. This package is valued at over \$3000.00 dollars.

We hope you are as jazzed up as we are and look forward to seeing you at the 2019 Reunion.



This year we have created an AMA Officer Saber that is simply impressive. It is a 1936 replica of one of the museum sabers that **Don Studer** donated years ago. It is the saber many of us carried and cherished when we are at AMA. It is made to the exact specifications

and mounted on a cherrywood stain wall mount. It is beautifully engraved on both the blade and the sheath have been detailed in keeping with our tradition and legacy. It is valued north of \$1600.00



The guard is cast brass and 24-carat gold plated. The grip is German silver with a nickel-plated finish. The pommel is cast brass and also 24-carat gold plated.



The blade is 30-inch stainless steel, hand polished and engraved.



The engraved scabbard is Nickel-plated steel tube, hand polished with fittings of polished brass plated in 24-carat gold.



The cherrywood stained wall mount is engraved with the AMA eagle.

Many military schools, academies, and law enforcement honor guards use this ceremonial sword. It is identical in quality and construction to the cadet sword provided by **Marlow White** to the United States Military Academy at West Point, with the only differences being the plain blade and absence of school crests.

**Marlow White's** swords and sabers have ceremonial blades. As such, they are built to strict military regulations to be used in drills, ceremonies, and displays. These blades are of the highest quality, but are not sharpened for use as a weapon.

**Guard:** Cast brass guard, 24-carat gold-plated

**Grip:** German silver grip with nickel-plated finish

**Pommel:** Cast brass, 24-carat gold-plated

**Blade:** Stainless steel, 30-inch blade Hand-polished

**Scabbard:** Nickel-plated steel tube, hand polished

**Fittings:** Polished brass, 24-carat gold-plated

**Included:** Protective cloth bag

# Reunion 2019



The Rock River 1911 / .45acp is back and with a few new features. "Augusta Military Academy" is engraved on the left side of the slide. Additionally, this year we added the AMA and Roller Riles logos fully engraved on the grips.



"Ad Astra Per Aspera" is engraved on the right side of the slide along with the dates 1865-1984. This has turned out to be a very nice presentation piece, and it fully functional to boot. Its value is north of \$1000.00



A rifle has been donated by Tom Kennedy, '74, who resides in North Little Rock, Arkansas with his wife Rose Marie. The rifle is a 30 Cal Savage with a Bushnell Scope. Tom is a gun enthusiast and Chief Advertising Executive for Publishing Concepts in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The theme for Reunion 2019 is the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landing at the beaches of Normandy in France on June 6, 1944.



A Friday bus tour has been scheduled to the D-Day memorial at Bedford. Transportation to and from the DDAY memorial site near Bedford has been arranged. There will be a guided tour by a certified guide. A total of 2-1/2 hours has been allocated for the tour and individual exploration of the memorial. A seated luncheon at the Old Liberty Station Grill (Similar to the Depot in Staunton) in Bedford is included in the price of the trip.



Charles Schulz served in the 20th Armored Infantry Division during World War II, which means he was part of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. Schulz paid tribute to D-Day in Peanuts and was even part of planning the national D-Day memorial. He is quoted as once saying:  
*"I think any sensible person with a grasp of history would have to admit that D-Day was the most important day of our century."*

We've also gotten these great football related items donated. The framed signed pictures of **Dak Prescott** and **Michael Irvin** are valued at \$150 each, the collection of Super Bowl tickets is worth \$600, the helmet around \$100.



Also donated to our auction this year is a set of skis and bindings. These are the highly regarded K2 Apache Recon skis with Marker bindings. The set is valued at about \$800.



The ladies of AMA will once again be creating and auctioning themed gift baskets this year. If you're interested in putting a basket together and need more info, contact **Shelby Rogerville** at (804)347-4100 or by email to [srogerville@outlook.com](mailto:srogerville@outlook.com).



## American

We are pleased to announce that American Airlines is the official airline of Reunion 2019. There will be First Class round trip tickets to anywhere American flies in the continental U.S. and Caribbean in the silent auction.

American Airlines is also providing transportation for our guest speakers, MOH Gary Littrell and DSC David Cooper.

And this is not all! There are more plans in the works to make this the undeniably best reunion ever.

Additional Reunion 2019 details will be provided in a Reunion Special Bayonet due in late November.

Clear your calendar now and together, let's make this the best attended Reunion ever. An attendance of 500 would fill the gym, and several hotels, and be a fitting tribute to our guest speakers

# VMI cadets fight in battle of New Market

## AMA Alumni host the cadet rest stop

By John Arthur, '75.

The VMI of today says of itself: *"It is the mission of the Virginia Military Institute to produce educated and honorable men and women, prepared for the varied work of civil life, imbued with love of learning, confident in the functions and attitudes of leadership, possessing a high sense of public service, advocates of the American democracy and free enterprise system, and ready as citizen-soldiers to defend their country in time of national peril."*

When the Virginia Military Institute Corps of Cadets reached Staunton on May 12, 1864, heavy rain had turned the Valley Turnpike into such a muddy mess that cadets said they had to "wade through like hogs." The footsore boys, most between the ages of 17 and 21, marched into town behind a fifer playing *The Girl I Left Behind Me*, adopting a jaunty air despite having covered 35 miles in two days. The Battle of New Market, where 10 cadets would be killed and nearly 50 wounded, was still 50 miles and three days away.

During the school's annual commemoration of the Civil War battle, upperclassmen volunteer to march, just as the original Corps of Cadets did, to the Bushong Farm House at New Market, where the first-year students (Rats) will meet them, after charging to the house from their position. As their predecessors did in 1864, Cadets replicate the march from Lexington to New Market, traversing the same route along the Valley Turnpike, now known as Route 11. This is an annual event, and the past is present and on duty at New Market, Va., and its watchwords are *"where 257 cadets from the Virginia Military Institute made the difference between victory and defeat."*

*"The heritage [of New Market] looms over VMI," as Scott Harris, the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park director, explains to many who visit the Park. The Civil War battle is ingrained in the mind of every cadet, and the school's identity is rooted in the response of its 257 cadets to the call to serve. Ten died and 45 were wounded in the fighting. The school seems to not simply commemorate the event, but rather to embody it at its very core."*

Initiation into the history of New Market starts from "the first day you are here," Harris will highlight. When

first-year students, or "Rats," as they are called, enter the Institute, they are sworn in on the New Market Battlefield where their predecessors fought and died so long ago.

The Rat induction ceremony culminates with them reenacting the famous VMI charge against the Union lines, across the terrain known as the Field of Lost Shoes (many Cadets lost their shoes during the charge, due to muddy conditions) and reach the 1st Class (Seniors) Cadets. Then they are given their cap insignia, and are assembled to return back to VMI.

Once the cadets return to VMI they turn to memorizing the "Rat Bible," a book of New Market facts that a cadet must know and repeat upon request by any upperclassman or instructor. The legacy of New Market is "history to look back on" and an example of courage and honor to follow, Harris explained.

Two things about this march are unique to the VMI Corps of Cadets. First, the Cadets march with their bayonets fixed - a distinction awarded to them because of the battle at New Market. Also, in commemoration of the battle, the VMI flag carries a New Market battle streamer; an honor identifying the field of battle for units that distinguished themselves in combat there.

One of the institute's graduates - one of the survivors of the battle of New Market - went on to become an internationally renowned sculptor. This sculptor, Moses Ezekiel, an 1866 graduate of the institute, created *Virginia Mourning Her Dead*, a statue that serves as the centerpiece for the acknowledgment and remembrance of the day. Six of the cadets killed in the battle are buried behind the monument.

The primary area of assembly for the corps of cadets, Jackson Memorial Hall, contains a massive painting called *The Charge of the New Market Cadets*. It was done by Benjamin West Clinedinst, an 1880 graduate of the Institute, said Harris.

Outside specific acts and objects of remembrance by the institute, the very fact that the battlefield, preserved as a state park, is owned and operated by the school is an act of commemoration - a sharing of a rich and proud tradition with visitors from near and far. New Market is not the only connection between the VMI and the Confederate cause that is remembered in Lexington.

As the Encyclopedia of the Confederacy observes:



A reproduction of the flag that was carried by the Corps of Cadets into battle on May 15, 1864\*

"At the outbreak of the Civil War, nearly 300 of the 348-man VMI Corps of Cadets were sent to Richmond to help drill and instruct the thousands of recruits who were daily pouring into the Confederate capital. Estimates vary, but it has been suggested that the recruits drilled by the cadets range in number from 25,000 to 50,000." At the beginning of the War there had been 1,217 matriculates at the institute, and another 813 enrolled during the war, bringing the total to 2,030. Of these 1,902 were living at the commencement of hostilities, and 1,796 (94 percent) went into Confederate service. Of this total, 259 (14.5 percent) died, either killed outright or by wounds or disease. Small wonder, then, that VMI has been referred to as the 'West Point of the South' or that Superintendent Francis H. Smith was prompted to say in 1877 that the institute 'left more of its alumni on the battlefield among the slain in the civil war of 1861-65 than West Point in all wars of the United States since 1802, when the United States Military Academy was established. The Institute

**It's become traditional for the VMI Cadets to each sign a banner and present it to their AMA hosts.**



During their 2016 rest stop, the cadets of VMI presented Ben Zinkhan a banner that each had signed to commemorate their close relationship with the AMA Museum and the AMA volunteers.

gave to the Confederacy three major generals, 17 brigadier generals, 92 colonels, 64 lieutenant colonels, 107 majors, 306 captains, and 221 lieutenants."

For a complete historical perspective, please click on this link:

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/vmi-cadets-fight-in-battle-of-new-market>

\* Flag photo courtesy of VMI Digital Collections Online at <http://digitalcollections.vmi.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/p15821coll7/id/3619/rec/16>

John Arthur, '75, is a Trustee of the AMA Alumni Foundation, and a Graduate of VMI.



VMI Cadets pose with their AMA hosts for a final photo prior to resuming their march to New Market. Photo by Stride Coleman.

On Friday August 31, 2018 the AMA campus was once again a welcome rest stop for 24 VMI Cadets re-enacting their annual Lexington to New Market Virginia march.

The Cadets were met by AMA volunteers and were given food and refreshments along with words of praise and encouragement by all of the folks that helped make this year's stop a memorable one.

Thank you Blaine Clarke '72, Ed Rogerville '76, Brett Tompson '75, Phil Bentley '83, Stride Coleman '72, Steve Trent '70, Buddy Krise '57, Ed Click '50, and Heather Payne for helping these future leaders of our country feel welcomed and appreciated!

<http://www.whsv.com/content/news/VMI-cadets-visit-Augusta-Military-Academy-en-route-to-New-Market-Ceremony-492198821.html>

[https://www.dailypress.com/newsvirginian/news/education/vmi-cadets-get-needed-rest-food-from-ama-alumni/article\\_6c3cc686-ae3a-11e8-a744-0b1693c59f2a.html](https://www.dailypress.com/newsvirginian/news/education/vmi-cadets-get-needed-rest-food-from-ama-alumni/article_6c3cc686-ae3a-11e8-a744-0b1693c59f2a.html)

## Remembering Eddie Longmire

By Jorge Rovirosa, '70

**Edward Hampton Longmire** (9/5/1948 – 11/1/2017) originally from Oxford, North Carolina was a seven year cadet at AMA graduating in the AMA Class of 1968.

While at AMA he participated in track and wrestling. As many of you that knew him will remember Eddie was strong and muscular always lifting weights and staying fit.

In 1968 he was battalion executive officer under BC **John McCutchan**. He commanded that years' Roller Rifles, considered by many one of the best winning the Apple Blossom festival parade in Winchester as well as others in Staunton and in Richmond.

I was honored when in 1967 he chose me to replace him as guidon for the 1968 edition of the Roller Rifles. In 1967 Eddie transformed the job of RR guidon from that of the traditional formal moves signaling a command to one that helped enhanced many of the RR marching and rifle routines. He would twirl the RR flag with a lot of pride and respect like it was never seen before.

Many of you will remember his showmanship which allowed him to also proudly perform as we proudly marched whether in street parades, half time football game performances, or just plain old practices around the bowl.



One of Eddie's passions was all things motorcycles, whether it was riding them or fixing and restoring them. He loved his motorcycles owning several of them but his number one bike (at home) while a cadet was the Triumph.

As many of you will remember **Col. Paul Hoover**'s hobby was motorcycling and in the late 60's he kept a bike

at **Maj. Herb Lucas'** garage just down Route 11. Col Hoover's motorcycle happened to be, you guessed it, a Triumph! It is hard to forget Eddie's most memorable tale about his ride on Col. Paul Hoover's Triumph motorcycle. That now legendary story now known as "bug in the eye" is an AMA classic.

According to Eddie, Col. Hoover found out about his mechanical skills with the troublesome English bike and one spring time afternoon asked him to help him trouble shoot some mechanical issue. Eddie asked Hoover to allow him to ride the bike in order to pinpoint the lack of normal power and why it was misfiring. Well, Hoover felt that allowing Eddie to take off solo on the bike was not like allowing Gordon Metz to drive his station wagon back from a fencing match in Baltimore in the middle of the night.

Consequently he insisted that Eddie sit behind him on the Triumph and he would drive. According to Eddie he rode behind



Col. Hoover who proceeded to run towards Verona as fast as the Triumph would go.

As it turned out and as you would expect in the spring or any other time specially if you do not have a windshield to protect you, or

goggles or a helmet with a shield, bugs become a real problem, a potentially dangerous problem, especially if one only has one good eye. As Eddie would tell the story all of a sudden while they were riding a nice clip down Route 11, Hoover yells, "*bug in the eye....bug in the eye*" and starts to slow down and Eddie inquires with Hoover as to what was going on... and Hoover responds ... "*bug in the good eye damn it.*" [stronger version not suitable for publication]

So Eddie him verbally the turn they until Hoover stop the the bug in pretty bad so it was best to take over

ride behind back to Luca's garage. Eddie told many of us back then and still after he was an adult that out of all his years riding and racing that was his scariest moment on a bike.

***"bug in the  
good eye  
damn it"***

starts guiding as to handling were making was able to safely bike. Apparently the good eye was Hoover thought to allow Eddie and he would

After my graduation in 1970, I never saw Eddie again at any of our reunions until he unexpectedly drove up at Reunion 2006. At that Reunion he volunteered to join up with the Roller Riders and cook for the group during the ride that year. Eddie had become a skilled cook and showed off his skills for the riders that participated. **Rick Smail, '67**, led the Roller Riders ride that year and said, "Eddie went with us in 2006. It was the year that that **Mac "Muffy" McWilliams** was the Roller Rider. Eddie did cook for us and brought along his truck for the requisite forays for adult beverages".

Eddie was someone that I looked up to as a cadet and it was really great to see him after so many years. At Reunion 2006 he promised to come back again but as far as I know he never made it.

John McCutchan '68 reached out a couple of times but was never able to connect. Earlier this year John called to advise that while at work someone had phoned his home and left a message advising that Eddie had passed the previous November.

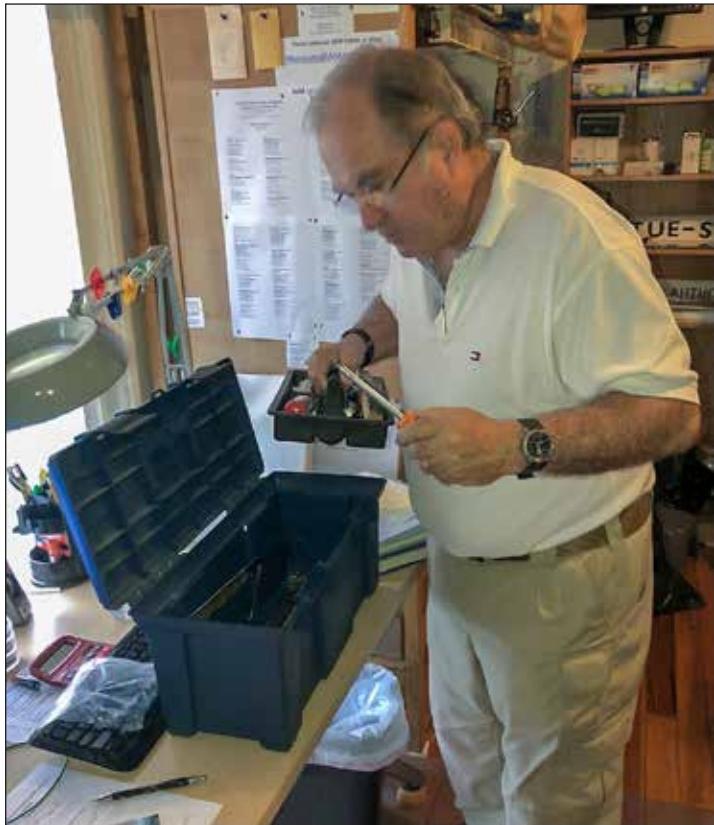
It is a hard reality that in the recent couple of years we have lost so many members of this special brotherhood. Some of you out there have not been back, fearing that you will not see any of your pals, or that you will not know anyone. Perhaps some

*See Longmire on page 29*



**Victor Gomez, '69,** gathered as many Dominican alumni together as he could this summer during his vacation trip back home. *left to right: Alberto Zimeri, '80, Alejandro Villanueva, '80, Santiago Gonzalez, '79, Carlos Bonnelly Ricart, '81, Billy Jr Berroa, '81, Roberto Antonio Santana Ramirez' 83, and Victor Gomez, '69.*

Let us know what you're up to. Your AMA brothers want to know. Email your photos to B.J. d'Orsay at Bayonet@AMAalumni.org. The bigger the better. Make sure they are sharp and well-exposed. They might just end up in the next Bayonet.



*Top, Jorge looks for just the right screwdriver so start his project. Right, Tom DelValle works on the welcome sign from above the front door. Regular maintenance is a must to keep the museum in tip top condition and is something easily done by volunteer docents.*



# Present and past leaders ... lead by example

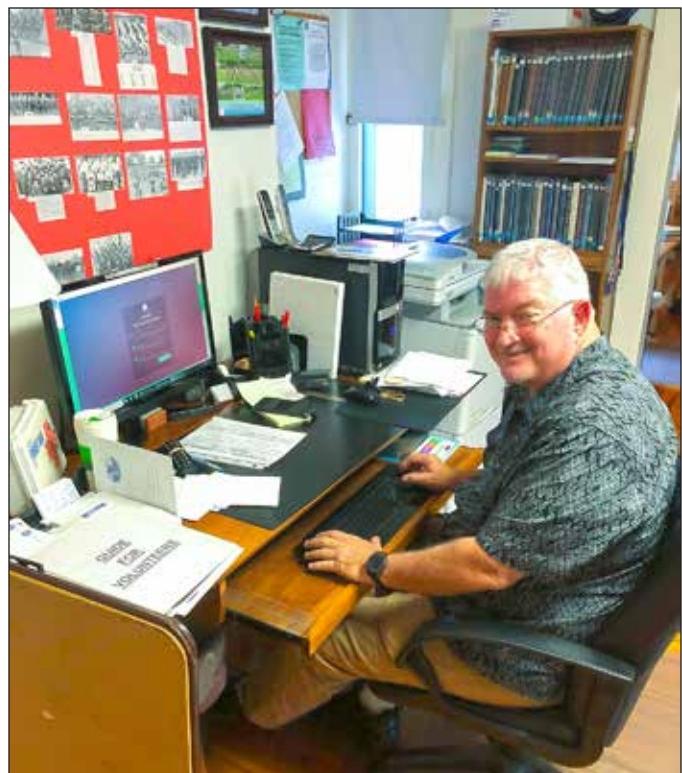
Five months into their first year as Trustees, **Tom Del Valle**, '73, and **Doug Pennock**, '72, joined former Association presidents **Garry Granger**, '71, and **Jorge Rovirosa**, '70, for a weekend at the museum. Simply being there and ready to give tour to visitors would not do for these guys.

Just as they were during their student days as cadets, these men are leaders. And they lead by example. Jorge was Captain of "A" Company, Doug was Cadet Major and Executive Officer. Tom was 1st Lt. "B" Company, and Garry was 1st Lieutenant and Executive Officer in "C" Company.

In addition to giving two tours, Saturday was spent in various maintenance tasks around the museum, such as cleaning and painting the Bell, the roof of the outside sign board, ordered a new clacker for the bell, replaced hinges on the utility door under the stairs, got the TV/DVD at the rear entrance working, fixed the light on the mantle in Maggie Belle's Parlor, cleaned the cannon, cleaned out "Z"'s porch light (removed the bird's nest), and cleaned and sealed the welcome sign over the front door. They also swept and dusted the entire museum! And don't forget all the bird droppings removed from the cannon.

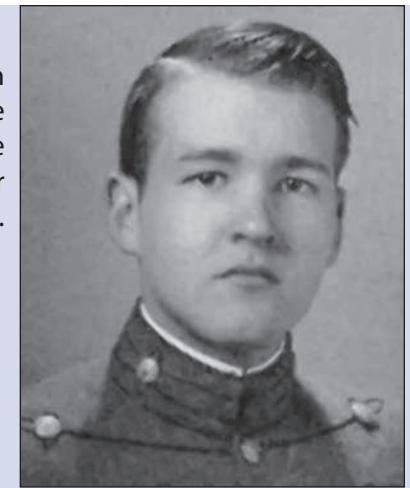
Sunday morning they were surprised when they arrived at the museum to see Brett Thompson's cleaning service truck backed up to the front of the museum, ready for a day's worth of cleaning the sidewalks and bricks at the front of the museum.

*Top right, Doug Pennock works at the docent desk. Right, Brett Thompson pressure washes Alumni bricks. Below, Brett tries teaching Tom DelValle the art of pressure washing walkways before the rain hit.*



# Fred "Squint" Savage

"Band" Co. who was also involved in the glee club and was vice-president of the Bible Class. This 1942 letter to his parents gives a great account of the daily life of an average cadet. His son, Dan, came to the museum this summer during my time as volunteer docent, and I was privileged to give him a tour. He sent me this letter after he got home.



Dear Mother and Daddy,

February 24, 1942

Please don't ever send a letter like I received from you last night. I am referring to the one that you did absolutely nothing, but bawl me out, for three whole pages.

Every time you asked me about my grade on solid geometry grade, I clearly stated in my next letter: "That 65 is not my term average, it is my examination grade." Also, "I am very surprised to find out, that it is so low."

The next letter I received from you, would always contain the following quotation. "Your report card said that you got 65 for your term average on solid geometry. I can't understand it. How in the world did that happen?"

The last paragraph is especially dedicated to you, Mother, as I called Daddy on the telephone. (collect of course) I am making a carbon copy of this letter, and sending one to each of you.

I received your unpleasant reply, to my request for permission to attend the Y.M.C.A. conference. I am hoping that you will change your minds after you listen to my story.

You see, this function is run by Major Webb, whom I never particularly cared for, as I didn't think he recognized my intelligence, or personality. Now I think he is a fine fellow, as he chose me as one of the fifteen, out of the two hundred and fifty seven boys in this school, to participate in the above mentioned function. He also chose my roommate, my trusted friend Joe Ambler, my trusted friend Luther Stiff, my trusted friend Braxton McCaskey, and many other of my trusted friends. These great people were not only asked, but they are going.

I feel that you will see my point, after I tell you about my life.

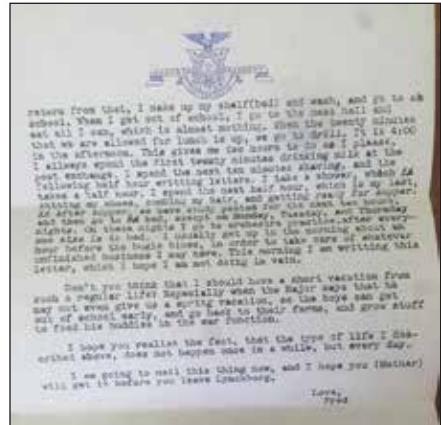
At 7:00 A.M. I get up and go to breakfast., As soon as I return from that, I make up my shelf (bed) and wash, and go to school. When I get out of school, I go to the mess hall and eat till I am, while I am eating, when the twenty minutes eat till we are allowed for lunch is up, we go to drill. It is 4:00 in the afternoon. This gives me two hours to do as I want to. I always spend the first twenty minutes sitting and talking with my roommates, and then I go to the mess hall, and then I go to bed, except on Sunday, Saturday, and Friday nights. On those nights I usually get up in the morning, and then before the tough times, as I call them, start working unfinished business on the war function. This morning I am writing this letter, which I hope is not done in vain.

was a second year corporal in

eat all I can, which is almost nothing. When the twenty minutes that we are allowed for lunch is up, we go to drill. It is 4:00 in the afternoon. This gives me two hours to do as I please. I always spend the first twenty minutes sitting and talking with my roommates, and then I go to the mess hall, and then I go to bed, except on Sunday, Saturday, and Friday nights. On these nights I go to orchestra practice after everyone else is in bed. I usually get up in the morning about an hour before the bugle blows, in order to take care of whatever unfinished business I have. This morning I am writing this letter, which I hope is not done in vain.

This morning I am writing this letter, which I hope I am not doing in vain.

Don't you think that I should have a short vacation from school? I am writing this letter, especially when the Major says that he may not even give us a spring vacation, as the boys have to go to school early, and as early as five o'clock, and grow stuff to feed his buddies in the war function.



I hope you realize the fact, that the type of life I described above, does not happen once in a while, but every day.

I am going to mail this thing now, and I hope you (Mother) will get it before you leave Lynchburg.

Love, Fred

# Friends last forever

says Steve Trent, '70. "Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame is a pretty big deal. Bill Lane and I went to Command & General Staff College together and always stayed in contact with even though I have not seen him in about 18 years. He's a great Guy who did well in the Army."

Bill Lane describes his service thusly, "Surely it was my privilege to serve our country, that service was for a cause I always believed in, and it's good to feel appreciated for my small contribution to our country's National Defense. Thanks for your support over the years...a piece of this honor belongs to all of you...my family, friends, and co-workers. God bless you all."

Steve goes on to remind us, "As we meet for Reunion 2019, we will be honored with the presence of two veterans, one a Medal of Honor recipient and one a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award. Let us not forget the many other distinguished veterans who have spent their lives protecting the United States, like Bill Lane."



## Colonel William E. Lane

Colonel William E. Lane entered the US Army on January 30, 1970 from Pittsburgh, PA. He served as a Soldier in the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC and as a Sergeant in the 1st Battalion, 75th Infantry, Ranger (Airborne), Fort Stewart, GA. He was commissioned a Signal Corps Officer upon graduation from Officer Candidate School, 50th Company, Fort Benning, Georgia, Class # 2-76 on January 30, 1976. His first duty assignment was as Platoon Leader, Radio Platoon, Company B, 34th Signal Battalion, VII Corps, Ludwigsburg, Federal Republic of Germany.

His subsequent duty assignments were: Platoon Leader, Corps Tactical Command Post Platoon, Company B, 34th Signal Battalion, VII Corps, Ludwigsburg, Federal Republic of Germany; Commander, Kelley Detachment, 34th Signal Battalion, VII Corps, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Federal Republic of Germany; Commander, Company D, 34th Signal Battalion, VII Corps, Ludwigsburg, Germany; Commander, Company A, 34th Signal Battalion, VII Corps, Ludwigsburg, Germany; Signal Squadron Operations Officer, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC; Signal Squadron Commander, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC; Organization Effectiveness Staff Officer, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; S-3 Operations Officer, Light Fighter Training Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Helemano, Hawaii; Executive Officer, Light Fighter Training Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Helemano, Hawaii; Assistant Division Signal Officer, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Republic of Korea; J-6 Operations Officer, Special Operations Command Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii; Military Observer, United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, Umm Qasr, Iraq; Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC; Commander, 112th Signal Battalion (Airborne, Special Operations), Fort Bragg, NC; Signal Branch Chief, Enlisted Personnel Directorate, Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, VA; Combat Support Division Chief, Enlisted Personnel Directorate, Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, VA; Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, United States Army Signal Command, Fort Huachuca, AZ; Commander, 2nd Signal Brigade, Mannheim, Federal Republic of Germany; Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6, United States Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC; he retired from active duty February 29, 2004; and works for the United States Army Forces Command as a Department of the Army Civilian.

Colonel Lane's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Soldier's Medal, and the Purple Heart, as well as, many others.

His military education consists of the Officer Basic Course; the Officer Advanced Course, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Naval War College.

### The United States Army Officer Candidate School



To all who shall see these presents greeting  
Be it known that

**Colonel William Lane (RET)**

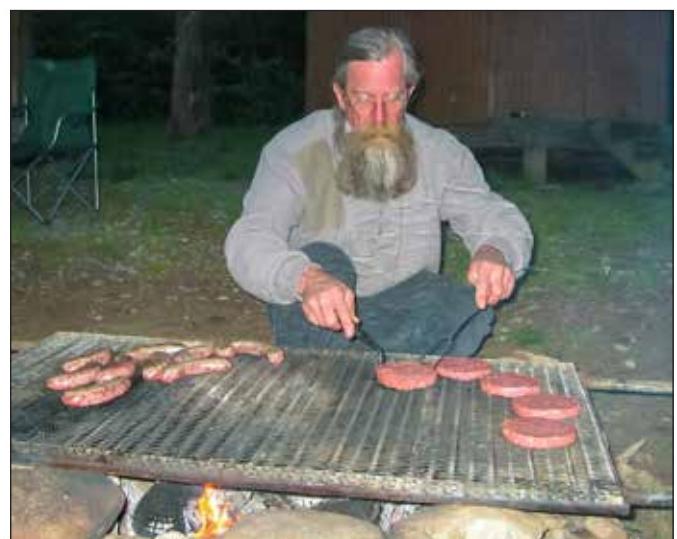
Is hereby inducted into the United States Army Officer Candidate School  
Hall of Fame

In testimony Whereof and by authority vested in me,  
I do Confer upon said officer this

**Certificate 16-18**

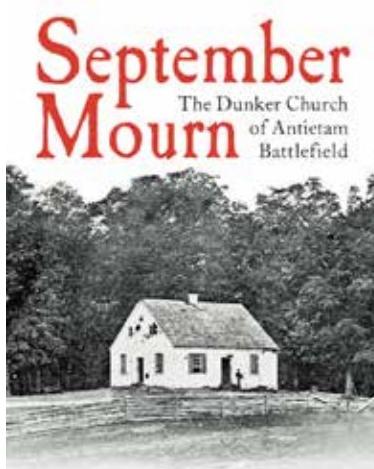
Given at Fort Benning Georgia, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018

Eric J. Wesley  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding



Henry Femrite was often the cook during the many Roller Rider cycling tours following reunions.





Alann Schmidt and Terry Barkley

Foreword and Appendix by Ted Alexander  
Chief Historian, Antietam National Battlefield; Ret'd

September Mourn: The Dunker Church of Antietam Battlefield by authors Alann Schmidt and Terry Barkley, which is a must-read for anyone interested in the full story of the monumental battle and the community who lived through it.

The Dunker Church is one of the most iconic structures of the American Civil War. Few people know much, if anything, about its fascinating back story, the role it played within the community of Sharpsburg, and its importance during and after the Battle of Antietam. Schmidt and Barkley

rectify this oversight in the first book-length study of its kind.

"Many books have been written about Antietam, but no book has been devoted to the little white brick church on the battlefield – the sanctuary known as the Dunker Church," writes John W. Schildt, author of Drums Along the Antietam and September Echoes. "Alann Schmidt and Terry Barkley have ably filled that void with September Mourn, an outstanding book about a piece of hallowed ground and the dedicated congregation of German Baptist Brethren."

On September 17, 1862, two mighty armies grappled across the rolling hills, fields, and woodlots surrounding Sharpsburg, Maryland. The combat killed, wounded, or left missing more than 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers, repulsed Lee's invading Virginia army, and paved the way for Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Ironically, the small whitewashed building dedicated to peace, equality, and the brotherhood of man stood in the epicenter of that bloodiest day in American history.

The German Baptist Brethren, or Dunkers (Dunkards) as they were colloquially known, built the Mumma Church of the Manor congregation in 1853, just nine years before Antietam. In addition to being a house of worship with important ties to the local community, the history of the Dunker Church is linked with such notable figures as Stonewall Jackson, Clara Barton, Abraham Lincoln, and even Mark Twain. The structure was heavily damaged during the battle, housed torn bodies as a hospital in its aftermath, and suffered a complete collapse before undergoing the long and arduous process of being rebuilt.

"September Mourn is the first book-length treatise on the importance of the little Dunker Church not only to the Battle of Antietam but to the religious and community life of the Sharpsburg area," writes author Barkley.

Schmidt's and Barkley's impressive September Mourn is based upon years of meticulous research from both a National Park Service and Church of the Brethren (Dunkers) perspective. The authors firmly establish the importance of the structure to Sharpsburg and its citizens, its role during the battle and its aftermath, and how it helped establish tourism and education for future generations of Americans.

The Dunker Church can finally take its place alongside the Alamo and Shiloh churches as one of the most notable houses of worship in American military history.



Terry Barkley taught history at AMA from 1978 - 1983. Now retired, he writes historical and biographical books for a living.

My latest book with Alann Schmidt is "September Mourn: The Dunker Church of Antietam Battlefield." Published by Savas Beatie of California, the book is available in hardcover and paperback, eBook, and will soon be an audio book.

Terry Barkley served as archivist and museum curator at Bridgewater College in Virginia, a Brethren-related institution, and holds degrees and a graduate certificate from the University of North Alabama, The Citadel, University of Alabama, and Harvard University. He retired in 2012 as director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives (BHLA) at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Illinois. He is an independent scholar and musician and lives in Lexington, Virginia.

Visit his author page at Amazon.com:  
[https://www.amazon.com/Terry-Barkley/e/B001OJT1T2/ref=dbs\\_p\\_ebk\\_rwt\\_abau](https://www.amazon.com/Terry-Barkley/e/B001OJT1T2/ref=dbs_p_ebk_rwt_abau)



Class of 71: I to r, Gary Cripps, Garry Granger, Henry Femtire, and Willis Walker, who also passed away earlier this year.

# Alumni News

~ 1952 ~



After seeing this photo, Juan Santalo commented, "I do not know in the 60's, but in the 50's the wooden stairs to the flag tower were rotted by Virginia termites, and you were never sure if you could get back to the duty office with the American flag. Loved every challenge AMA threw at us!!!"

[santalo@bellsouth.net]

~ 1956 ~



Milt Baker checked in on Facebook, his first contact after leaving AMA 62 years ago. "I was an AMA cadet for just a couple of years circa 1955-56, starting in D Company for the first year and then as a CW in Hq. Co. the second year before I behaved myself and was allowed by my parents to go to high school. Yay! AMA was a transcendental experience for me--it helped me grow up and learn to take responsibility. A few of the names I remember from my time there: Goodloe Saunders (my roommate for a time), Larry Smoot (another roommate), Harry Sommers(Summers), J.P. Smith, Alfredo Garcia (of Cuba), Jim Meyer (or was it Myer or Myers?), Slade???? from North Carolina, and the Tomacek brothers. I have not been back since about 1956 (ohhh, what's that, 60-some years!), but you [B.J. d'Orsay] and my distant cousin Angus Hines, an AMA graduate still alive and kicking at (almost age 95), have inspired me. I'm going to make it a point to return to Fort Defiance and take your tour!"

~ 1959 ~

Winston Hall visited the museum this summer. He only attended AMA one year as an elementary school student, after which he returned to his home in Maryland, where he graduated. Now retired after a career in the accounting business, after graduating from North Carolina State University.

[TC010406@gmail.com]

~ 1962 ~



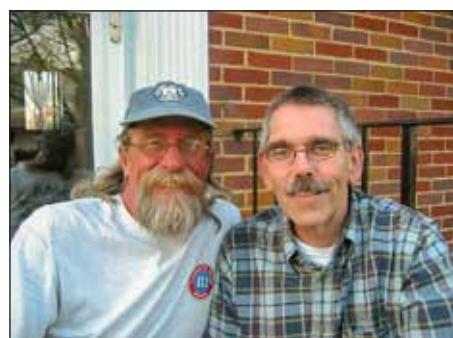
Bill Horan retired in May from his position as President and COO of Operation Blessing International. He plans to spend time with his daughters and grandkids in Austin.

[bill@michagg.com]

~ 1963 ~

Jack Schwartzmann's grandson, Trevor, earned the honor of being selected as Dartmouth High School's best boy tennis player for the third year in a row. Congratulations, Trevor!

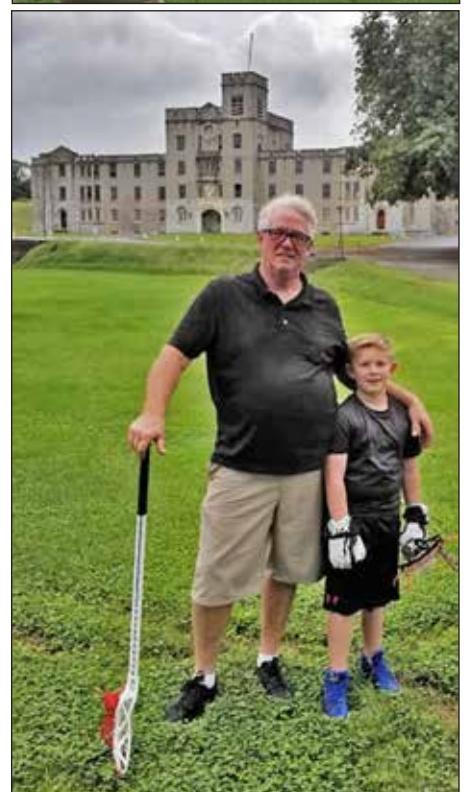
[trev1170@aol.com]



Henry Femrite and Ron "Scootch" Melcher. The 2009 Roller Riders rode to Ohio to visit their compadre, Ron, who had recently suffered a debilitating stroke.



Joe Garry, '73, and his grandson, Sully, visited the museum for two purposes. One was to introduce Sully to the campus and our upbringing, and another was to play lacrosse on the front field. Doug Pennock obliged Sully, tossing the ball around with the sticks (below)





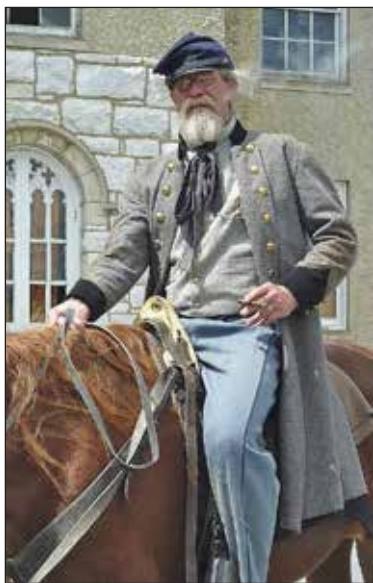
Bob Whitlinger, '63, visited the museum this summer. Although not his first visit to the museum, he was none the less surprised at the improvements made since his last visit.

[bob.whitlinger@comcast.net]

## ~ 1964 ~

**Ken Davenport** received a post card from AMA's search for unknown alumni team. "After leaving AMA I attended College for two years. In 1967 I joined the Army and I was sent to the central highlands in Viet Nam, (1968-1969). I was latter stationed in Germany on the East/West German Border. I am presently an ordained minister and I live at 37415 Teaberry Loop, Zephyrhills FL 33542.

[pastrok1944@gmail.com]



At the 2010 Reunion, Henry fit right in participating with the reenactors.



kathryn and Robert Andes, '64, visited the museum gain.

## ~ 1965 ~

**Marvin Rosenthal** sent scans of his personal memorabilia after being found by our summer intern Sean. *"Was quite surprised to receive your notice two weeks ago after ten lustrums since I attended AMA. I have gathered my memorabilia scanned and photographed to send to you FYI. I'm living in San Diego, Ca. these days at 72 years of age. I left AMA for the winter break and a week after my birthday December 17th I was on a train headed for US Coast Guard Boot Camp at Cape May New Jersey. I should not have been enlisted for health issues. I was born with flat feet, Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Deviated Septum, post Nasal Drip, Nasal Polyps and had two nose jobs before I attended AMA. This disappointed me for I wanted to make the Coast Guard a career for I love the sea. Actually I wanted a USN Career but my mother presented an indisputable argument. She said, "If you want to join the military and protect your country you can no better do so than to join the Guard, stay here and protect our shores." Regardless of which*

branch of service I entered my health defects would have been and still is a hindrance."

[bluesymarv@cox.net]

## ~ 1967 ~

**John Botcheller** and his wife **Nancy** have spent much of the summer recovering from their various infirmities. John is still recovering from his stroke of nearly one year ago, and Nancy had knee replacement surgery. Please continue to keep John in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his progress toward complete recovery.

**Richard Cullen** represented the Otto Warmbier family this spring as they filed suit against North Korea in Federal Coury for the death of their son.



Mac McInnis has been keeping us updated on the volcano eruptions and lava flows in Hawaii since May. On about August 8th, the activity ceased and Mac sent this photo that Mary Kay took of their first clear sunset in three months.

[cmcinnis@hawaii.rr.com]

## ~ 1968 ~

**Gary Paul** retired after 46 years in corporate banking. "Next week My wife Marsha and I will be moving from Severna Park, MD after 33 years, to our new log cabin home we just built in Union Mills, NC, just 30 miles east of Asheville, NC. We will be situated on a 3 acre wooded lot in the mountains complete with a stream and beautiful wildlife. We can't wait for the grand children to come visit along with other family and friends. If anyone

*is traveling through Western No. Carolina be sure to stop by and say hi.”* [gpaul@hotmail.com]

## ~1969 ~

*Once in a great while we get mail for someone else. It happens to all of us. Saturday we got a flyer for someone a couple streets over. Wife put it back in the mailbox to be delivered to the correct party. As she did this I happen to see it was from Greenbriar Military Academy. I looked at it and it was Alumni Info for a man 2 streets away. In the van we went to his house. I knocked and showed this to him and told him it was delivered to me by mistake. I mentioned I graduated from Augusta Military Academy. Joe (the man's name) broke down and cried. His father had went there and he passed away 4 years ago. He said he keeps getting this stuff in the mail and it makes him sad to tears when he sees it. He said he had asked them to stop mailing him but they continue. His dad had went there in the early to mid 40's and due to the local cops not liking him too much, he stayed 3 years. Joe thanked me for hand delivering this and said "God Bless You for taking your time to deliver this." You never know who you will run into out there my friends... Found another friend from Greenbriar also and he does tours for the Jack Daniels Brewery currently but that is a whole different story for another time.*

*Who have YOU ran into?  
~ Rex Rumley*



**Victor and Evelyn Gomez enjoyed a much needed break when they traveled to Victor's homeland, the Dominican Republic.**

Nicky Syropoulos commented on his participation in the annual reenactment of the annual Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg:  
Confederate Gun Battery, gun #1.  
Firing First Round, to start the assault onto the Wheat Field.

*"Saw the "elephant ", at this event 20 years ago it was my first event. I've been able to march in battle as an infantryman, as mentioned seeing the elephant. A phrase used for a newbie in seeing his first action. Ridden a horse into battle, had and have a wonderful run as a Staff Officer to some of the greatest people in know. Serving on the staff and for the Corps. May have been one of the last Bucket List, Civil War Reenacting.*

*Take it easy, I'm NOT quitting just remembering these 20 years. Those I share it with today, retired CW folks, and those who I used to share it with, our brothers who have marched across the river...*

*It was a great honor to have the opportunity to fire a cannon. I believe it was a 10 lb.er, Napoleon. We had over 5,000 reenactors. 4,000 troops on the field. Quite a show. Wonderful weather Saturday and Sunday.*

*Left: Nicky at the 2012 reunion.  
[nick.syropoulos51@gmail.com]*

## ~ 1970 ~



**B.J. d'Orsay, '70, Evelyn and Victor Gomez, '69, and Garry Granger, '71, take a break from museum filming this summer**

**Bob Mitchell** checked in. Bob and his wife have two children, a son 27, an epidemiologist at University of Pittsburgh, and a daughter 31, who is a teacher. “Worked for original place of employment as FIRE MARSHAL. Until 2013. Since that time , I worked 3 years as an investigator for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I spent a lot of time as a teacher locally and at the National Fire Academy in Maryland.” Bob hasn't been back to AMA for about 35 years, but is planning for a future visit, when he gets some health issues cleared up.

[bmitch1018@aol.com]

**Jorge Rovirosa** is thankful for the note and invitation to be present and assist at the annual lunch we have at the AMA Campus for the VMI Cadets on their march to New Market. Being unable to attend, Jorge nonetheless sent in a donation to help defray the costs in honor of his first father-in-law, **Richard C. Niess**, Regimental Commander, VMI Class of 1944.

[Jorge@farovi.com]



Gary Understein, '71, took to the road this summer, heading west to California where they toured the giant Redwoods before maneuvering his rig across the Golden Gate and into San Francisco.

~ 1972 ~



Mike and Maureen Kidd visited Ireland this summer. Mike noted, "Did you know that the Irish invented everything! Unless your talking to the Scots! Then they invented everything."

[mkidd72@gmail.com]

**Al Zayas** is recovering slowly from surgery to replace his esophagus due to cancer. Please contact Jorge Rovirosa for updates on Al's recovery.

~ 1973 ~

**Richard Prado** checked in from Guatemala, regretting that he was unable to attend the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, but glad to hear about Col. Rapp, "*I have fond memories of him.*" Richard also notes that he often wears his AMA t-shirt while flying helicopters, which he has done for the last 40 years.

[rpradoa@icloud.com]

~ 1975 ~

**Scott Myers** checked in for the first

time in forty-plus years from Joppa, Maryland. Scott attended AMA from 7th through 9 grade from 1973 through 1975. "Don Studer ... was my instructor then in MT-1. I came back once to visit in 1978 but have not been back since." He also mentioned Brett Thompson as one of the names he remembered from AMA. Scott plans to attend our next reunion in 2019.

[gershair@gmail.com]

~ 1976 ~



Jim Mitchel, '76, and his wife, Krysta, have come to the museum more than once, tool belt in hand to volunteer as docent and handyman this summer. Jim is putting his actions into practice after an impassioned plea for volunteers at last April's reunion.



Henry in 2011 Roller Rifles, 2011.tif



Mike Payne continues his winning ways on the rifle range, shooting an almost perfect score of 299 out of 300 possible in the Independence Day match.

~ 1978 ~

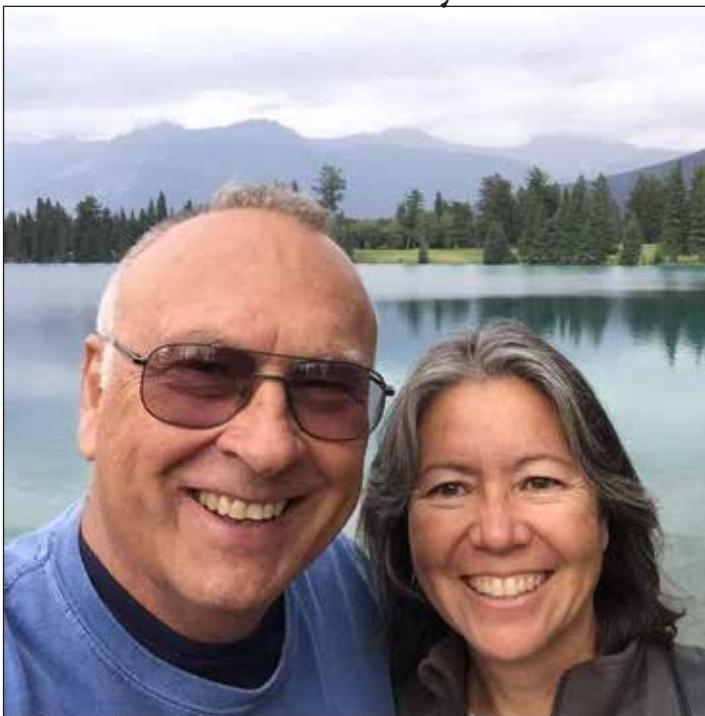
**William Cucinotta** visited the museum this summer from Levittown, PA. It was his first visit since leaving the school. He spent three years at AMA, graduating as a squad leader. He later joined the marines.

[williamcucinotta@gmail.com]



Tom Douglas, '62, while "de-cluttering" recently came across some AMA memorabilia in a box that had been unopened for 20 years. an AMA blue "A" Pin, an AMA Tie-Tac with chain, an AMA marksman rifle pin, and his belt buckle.

## Son, Son, Son Welcome Home We missed you



I would like to update the information you have for me in the various lists of Alumni, Vietnam Honor Roll and general contact information.

You have me listed as "lost" and now I am found.

AMA - 1960 -1964 -  
1963/1964 - Battalion Commander

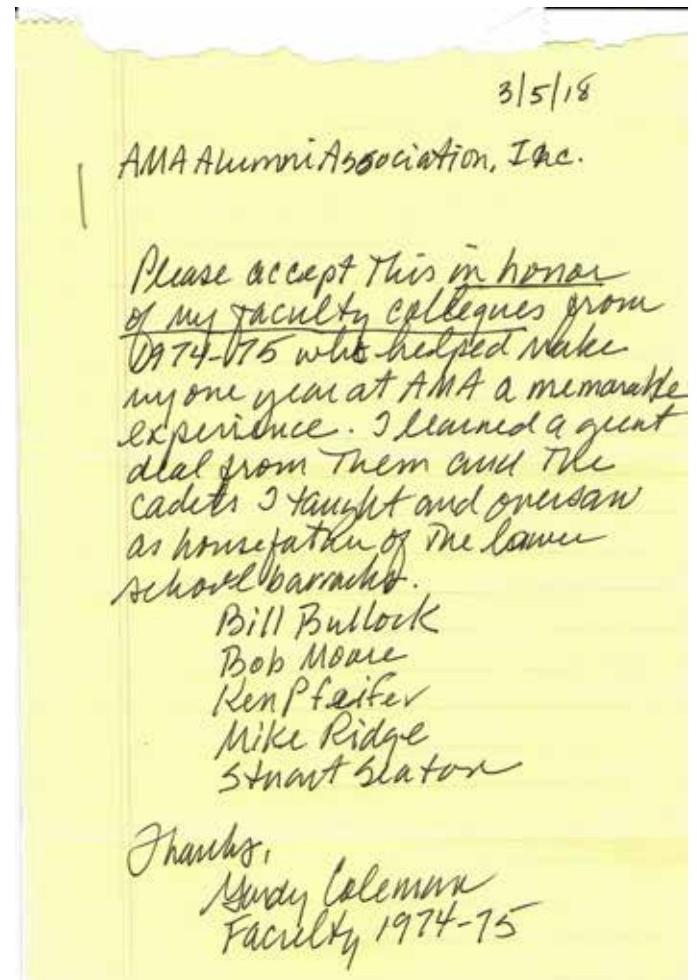
I attended Tampa University for a year then enlisted in the US Army in 1966. Served as an officer in Vietnam as platoon leader, company commander and Aide de Camp to a one star general all with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Returned with several purple hearts and three medals for valor.

For the first 20 years after the army I owned several businesses including a Schwinn Bicycle Store, a trophy and awards store and a full line sporting goods store.

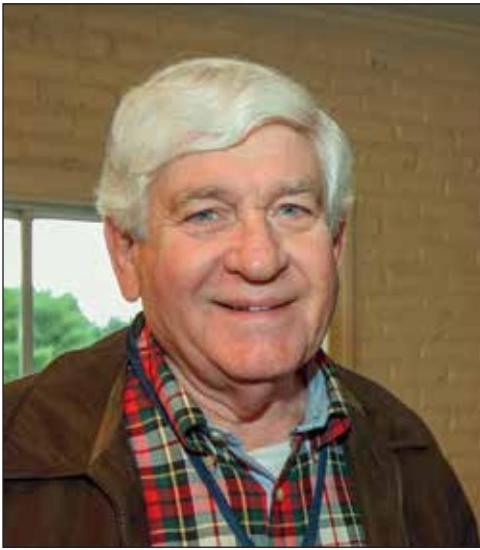
I then entered the corporate world running various sales and marketing divisions of large infrared manufacturing companies ending up managing a division of a fortune 500 company. In 2001 my wife and I sold everything and sailed away on our 42' sailboat sailing over 23000 miles in nine years. Currently we are living in our 37' Motorhome exploring the USA and have just completed a three month trip exploring Alaska.

My contact information is:

Douglas Brown  
1-520-288-0176  
highlandlight42@yahoo.com



The AMA Cuban delegation in Miami got together for a luncheon this past Wednesday at Casa Juancho Spanish Restaurant located on famous SW 8 Street in the heart of Little Havana. Joining in were Manuel Balbis, and Juan B Santalo from the Class of 1953 along with Alfredo Zayas Class of 1972 and new to the group, Raul Gutierrez Class of 1970...joining in was AMA BOT member Tom del Valle, Class of 1973 who was visiting from Dallas. In addition to catching up, Tom gave the group a quick briefing as to the activities of the new BOT and plans for R2019. In the picture L-R Jorge Rovirosa '70, Juan Santalo '53, Manuel Balbis '53, and Raul Gutierrez '70



Luke Snyder, '60

I got this note from Luke Snyder:

I was there [at AMA] for 7 years from the 5th grade but, I did come to regard the faculty with some favor. Especially knowing General Roller. You and all the cadets, after the Big Boy died in '63, surely missed out of an experience that is hard to give proper acknowledgment to.

Col. Roller, as I knew him, was the same age as my grandfather and I suspect that had some positive influence on me. And Col. Livick was my 7th grade teacher and was courting Linda at the time, so that was interesting to a 13-14 year old boy. She would come to class and that proved interesting.

Anyway, I left "never to return" until we took our daughter to D.C. and on the way back we did the reunion. I think that was in 1991. So about 31 years since my graduation. I too was hooked, but was unable to return to another reunion until the late 90's. I started out coming up for a week at a time helping the museum with Goodloe, Ben and Duke Fancher.

It was truly a wonderful experience. I was a cadet all the time those three were cadets. I saw them come and go. Anyway, I was a rebellious kid too. I probably was the only O.D. to go AWOL while on duty. I was Captain of the Band too. Busted for two months. Boy did I butter up that story to Roller and Savage. The year before, I also put the 'retreat canon' under Capt. Kivligan's car one night to go off when he drove away. He was the O.C. that day.

### Attention in the Barracks!

Shop the PX

[shop.amaalumni.org](http://shop.amaalumni.org)

We want your input and suggestions regarding items that should be offered at the PX. Feel free to make suggestions, requests and bring us new ideas so that we can stock the PX with inventory that is interesting and relevant to you and as many other folks as possible. THANK YOU!



Harvey Bowers, '69, and his wife Sandy own and operate the Agate Inn in Wasila, Alaska.

Harvey recently shared with me his experiences that led up to settling in Alaska. Since 2019 is going to be 50 years I am trying to see if I can make

that reunion. I have to find people to take over my chores like herding Reindeer and moving snow if we are talking April or early May.

I read your letter [inviting him to Reunion 2018]. AMA was also a different experience for me. AMA was not pleasant. My first year had 4 people per room, and I asked my parents to return home. Both my dad, grandfather and many family members were AMA graduates and they said I needed to stick it out. I felt that I was on my own. My first couple days at AMA there was a shoe raid and I was slow in thinking someone would steal anything, so I missed out on getting replacement shoes. My dad was mad at me and AMA administration. I kept close watch on my things after that and I learned not to be so trusting.

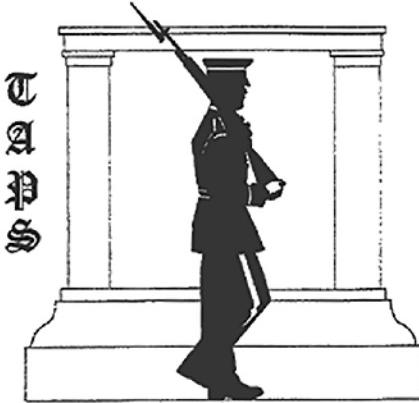
Before AMA I lived on a farm in Sugar Grove WV, which had 32 people back in the 1960's, which was booming. The US Navy and NSA was building a communication base beside part of our farm. During my senior year the Navy Base had a Dedication on a weekend. My Roommate, Neil Fewell and I went back to the dedication in our AMA dress uniforms and my dad was dressed up in a suit. My dad was well known but normally dressed in farm cloths. We were standing beside US Senator Robert Byrd. Since Neil and I were in some strange uniform the Navy thought my dad was an admiral. We got a royal tour of the huge facility under Shenandoah Mountain (high Security Area).



Harvey Bowers and his wife Sandy with their reindeer  
Mica, Topaz, Granite, Copper & Sapphire

My first year at AMA I was very naive and shy. I did my best to stay off the radar and blend in. My AMA experience set the stage to my journey to Alaska not long after leaving AMA. One of my memories of AMA was a yearly (?) presentation of a guy that did summer long canoe trips in Central Canada. I think he did the AMA presentations to finance his trips. It was an evening presentation in Hoover Hall. From a distant perspective I must have been influenced by the presentation. I have no clue to his name. I journeyed to Alaska with a few hundred dollars, sleeping bag, tarp, and my dad's Army duffel bag. A lot of my summers I spent kayaking down Alaska and Yukon Territories Rivers and ocean kayaking. Sometimes it was part of my work as a Geologist/Hydrologist. In the last twenty years it is just to experience wilderness. I will admit that sleeping on the ground is not as comfortable as it was in the past. My hope and goal is that I can still travel long distances on foot or paddling for the next ten years.

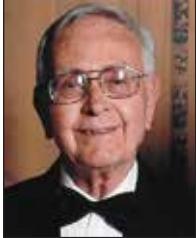
Follow Harvey on Facebook [www.facebook.com/agateinn/](http://www.facebook.com/agateinn/)



Please report deaths and illnesses of AMA alumni, faculty and friends to the  
AMA Museum  
P. O. Box 101  
Fort Defiance, VA 24437  
540-248-3007  
Museum@AMAlumni.org

James L. Pigg, '46

Colonel (Ret.) Jimmy L. Pigg, U.S. Army, of Shalimar died on August 11, 2018 at Fort Walton Rehabilitation Center after a long and brave battle with cancer. He was born October 14, 1928 in Ashland, KY to Louis H. and Carrie Louise Pigg. He spent his youth in Freeburn, Pike County, and Richmond, KY. He attended high school at Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance, VA. Dad was a 1953 graduate of the United States Military Academy, West Point, which was one of his proudest achievements and a guiding star for the rest of his life.



His branch of service was Armor with specialties in Force and Research Development. His tours of duty included command at various levels of Tank and Armored Cavalry units, ROTC at Penn State University Mont Alto, a three year tour as a Military Arts & Engineering Instructor at West Point, service as an advisor to foreign military units in Iran & Vietnam, Army General Staff, as well as work in design and testing of new armored vehicles such as the M1A1 Abrams Tank. These tours included eight years in three foreign

countries and twenty-one years in nine states. Dad was a graduate of both the Army and Air Force War Colleges. He also received a Master of Public Administration from Auburn University at Montgomery. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

After retiring from the Army in 1982, Dad resided in Shalimar to the present day. He was associated with both the Seaspray and Breakers Condominiums on Okaloosa Island from 1983-2000. He and our mother Nellie shared many wonderful adventures in their 64 years together. He raised us to embrace adventure, integrity, hard work, and devotion to family. He was an extraordinary man who touched countless lives because of his kindness and humble, honest outlook on life.

The 1946 Recall has this to say about Jimmy, *"Jimmy has come very close to coping just about all the honors that a cadet could in four years, and yet he is still the same country boy from Kentucky. Me started his first year by winning best new cadet. This was followed the next year by his winning "Neatest Cadet," and being elected to the Honor Committee (which he has been elected to every year since then). Last year he was on the Y.M.C.A. cabinet, Editor of the Recall, and associate on the Bayonet. This year he climaxed everything by becoming President of the Student Body, member of the Honor Committee, Captain of "B" Company, member of the Varsity Basketball team, Cadet Adviser to the Bayonet and Recall, Treasurer of the Cotillion Club, in fact, next to Brewer, he holds down everything, and a swell job he does of all. Academically, he stayed on the Honor Roll. As to his future, we know what fate has in store for him."* During his senior year, Jimmy commanded Company "B" and his mother was the Company sponsor.



Dr. Emanuel Michaels, '47

Dr. Emanuel "Manny" Michaels, DDS, age 86, passed away at the Beth Shalom Home in Virginia Beach, Virginia on



August 7, 2016 from complications arising from a stroke. He was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania to the late Erwin and Eva Michaels. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife and treasure of 43 years, Ada Rubin Michaels.

Manny attended Granby High School and Augusta Military Academy. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1951 and the School of Dentistry at the Medical College of Virginia in 1955. After serving as a Captain in the Dental Corp in the U.S. Army, he ran a successful dental practice in Norfolk, Virginia for 40 years. To his patients, he was a dedicated and kind caregiver who always took a personal interest in them and their families.

He was a member of and served in leadership roles and on committees for several dental organizations including: the Tidewater Dental Association Foundation (President), the Tidewater Dental Association (President), the Virginia Dental Association (President and Fellow), the Virginia Academy of General Dentistry (President), the American Academy of General Dentistry (House of Delegates and Fellow), the American Dental Association (House of Delegates, Relief Fund Vice Chair and Endowment and Assistance Fund Vice President), The International College of Dentists, Virginia Chapter (Vice Regent and Regent), The American College of Dentists (Chairman Virginia Section and Fellow), The International College of Dentists USA Section (President and Fellow), and The International College of Dentists (International Council). He was a Board Member of Delta Dental of Virginia for over 30 years.

Manny received a number of dental honors including the Simmons Award from the Tidewater Dental Association, Pierre Fauchard Society Award for Virginia, Harry Lyons Award of the Medical College of Virginia Alumni Association as its Distinguished Alumnus 2002, and he was the first recipient of the President's Award, Virginia Dental Association. In 2001, the President's Award of the Virginia Dental Association was renamed the Emanuel W. Michaels Award in recognition of his dedication and service.

He served as a respected and knowledgeable leader in the dental field, including being an Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene at Old Dominion University and authoring several resolutions to the ADA House of Delegates regarding dental health care for the underserved members of our community.

Manny believed strongly in one's duty to give back to society and was active in the community. He championed education and community health efforts and his community service was focused on initiatives that he believed in and where he felt he could make a difference. He was a member of the Vocational Education Advisory Council for the Norfolk Public Schools; a Member of the State Board of Health for the Commonwealth of Virginia; a Board Member of the Eastern Virginia Health Systems Agency; a member of the City of Norfolk Health Advisory Board, including Chairman in 2006; a Board member of the Norfolk Senior Center; a Highlight Docent for the Chrysler Museum; a Mediator for the Better Business Bureau; the Citizen Member of the Disciplinary Committee for the Virginia State Bar Association; and a member of Rotary Club of Norfolk. He was an active member of Congregation Beth El for 57 years.

Manny's many interests included his family, his friendships, history, politics, reading, traveling, photography (he was never without a camera) and public service. Manny was a lifelong learner and was knowledgeable on a wide range

of topics and always shared his insight and point of view. He believed that everyone should be actively involved in the world around us and he practiced what he preached.

During his two years at AMA, "Manny" already aspired to be a physician. He played golf and tennis.

#### Donald R. Carmichael, '48

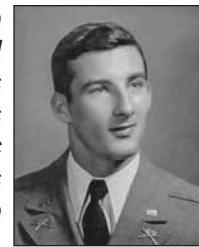
Donald "Ducky" Carmichael, 88, of Ocean Isle Beach, NC passed away on July 11, 2018. Donald was born in Wilmington, Delaware on September 25, 1929.

Ducky was a proud graduate of P.S. duPont High School, where he was named the outstanding athlete in his Junior and Senior years. He earned first team All-State halfback status in his senior year. Mr. Carmichael later attended Augusta Military in Virginia, and scored the only touchdown, to win the first ever Orchard Bowl, and the Southern Prep school championship. Mr. Carmichael later starred for the University of Delaware, playing on the baseball, football, and basketball teams. He was second in the nation in interceptions in his sophomore year and led the team in scoring as a senior. After graduation, Ducky served as a Lieutenant in the Army and was stationed in Korea. He was inducted into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Mr. Carmichael sold many homes throughout Delaware in a long career with Donald R. Carmichael Real Estate. He also served as the president of the New Castle County Board of Realtors. He was renowned for his honesty and integrity. He was quick with a joke, and he had the rare ability to make others smile and laugh. Ducky was happiest with his family, and the days he spent with his loyal and dear friends from the 34th street gang.

From the 1948 Recall. *"In his short stay on one year [Ducky Carmichael] has exhibited qualities of leadership and intelligence that will be difficult to duplicate. Another example of the*

*State Championship Football team and Orchid Bowl Victors - plus his prowess in other athletic endeavors. Success comes naturally to this gentleman."*



#### George L. Crispen, Jr., '48

George Crispen passed away on June 23, 2018. George served in the Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and later retired from the Atlantic division U.S.



Naval Engineering Command. He was a member of the Norfolk Masonic Lodge #1 AM & FM, the Norfolk Scottish Rite Bodies for 65 years and Khedive Temple AAONMS. He was also a past Director of the Drum and Bugle Corps Khedive Temple, and a life-time member of the Northern Lights Masonic Lodge Keflavic Iceland.

As captain of the rifle team, George carried this sport on to win the Hearst Trophy—an achievement that is dear to the hearts of a military school. He also played lacrosse and the 150-lb football team.

George's wife, Sara, had this to say when she notified us of his passing: *"George was so very proud of his 3 years at Augusta. He told me more than once about walking down the middle of the highway on Sundays in full dress uniform with rifles on their shoulder to go to church. He was on the rifle team and they would sing "Onward Christian Soldiers" as they marched. His training at Augusta came in handy when he was in the Marine Corps. He always read the Bayonet from front to back. I hope you will put this in the next issue of the Bayonet. Thank You."*

**John Milton Miller, Jr., '48**

Dr. John Milton Miller Jr., of Roanoke, Va., passed away peacefully with family by his side on Thursday, December 21, 2017. He was a devoted husband of 57 years to Elizabeth, loving supportive father of his four daughters, Claiborne, Susan, Anne and Mary Catherine, and a compassionate and dedicated physician to his patients at Lewis Gale Clinic in Salem, Va., for 44 years. Milton was a strong Advocate of Hospice and very active in the medical community.

He was born in Norfolk, Va., on November 6, 1931. He graduated from Augusta Military Academy in 1950, Hampton-Sydney, cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in 1954, Medical College of Virginia School of Medicine, Doctor in Medicine in 1958, internship, residency and fellowship from 1958 to 1965 in Internal Medicine and Hematology Oncology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and from 1961 to 1963 Milton served as a doctor in the United States Navy.

He was dedicated to his family from enthusiastic supporter of Elizabeth's art career to the children with their horse activities, coaching the girls' basketball teams and attending various sports activities when the girls were growing up. Milton loved to play tennis, garden, travel, and was a very active supporter of his church, St. Peter's in Callaway, Va., by singing in the choir, teaching Sunday school and camp physician at the Phoebe Needles Summer Camp. He had a special fondness for his alma mater, Hampton Sydney College, where he made many lifelong friends.

From the 1950 AMA Recall: "Milt thought so much of his Alma Mater that after receiving a high school certificate, he returned to be eligible for an A.M.A. Diploma - thru his interest in his future he added further laurels to Augusta by starring on the Peep, Tiger, Wrestling, and Lacrosse teams - Roller Rifles - Honor Roll - One of the best first Lieutenants ["D" Company] in the battalion - in short a regular fellow."

**Daniel S. Jones, '51**

Daniel Selden "Dan" Jones Jr., 86, a leading member of the business community in Williamsburg for more than 60 years, died Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018, at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News following a brief illness.

The son of Williamsburg native Daniel Selden Jones IV and Annie Smith, Dan Jones was born June 3, 1932, in New York City shortly before the family returned to Williamsburg. He was graduated in 1951 from Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance and soon thereafter served in the U.S. Army in Germany being discharged in late 1954. While in Berlin, he met his late wife, Ingrid Delores Pilz, of that city while sharing a lifelong love for classical music. They were married June 4, 1955.

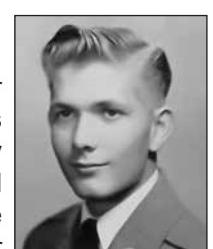
Dan Jones established Jones Electronics in Williamsburg during the late 1950s, a business that evolved as high fidelity, stereo and TV systems were developed for residential use. His long-standing association with Sony included technical recognition and numerous sales awards. He partnered with his wife during the 1970s and 1980s in operating the neighboring Blossom House. His business expanded to include custom furniture and became well known as Williamsburg Furniture and Electronics.

An outgoing and adventurous person, Dan loved traveling throughout the world and developed a passion for the Lake Louise area of Canada, returning there most summers.

At AMA, "Student without equal should he care to be — Musician of great legibilities — Electrician deluxe — Radio minded and active — Witty — Honor Roll — Average Officership — Master of Drums — Discoverer of New Slants in Telecasting, etc. — Willing helpful — clever — intellectually sound."

**Leonard K. Foley, '54**

Leonard K. Foley, AMA class of 1954, died on November 21, 2014 at Harkers Island, NC. Mr. Foley was 78 years old and is survived by his wife Helen and four children. Mr. Foley served in the US Navy for 20 years retiring as Chief Petty Officer. He subsequently worked at Cherry Point US Marine Corps Air Station in North Carolina as a pipe-fitter for 20 years. "Ken" was a second Lt. in "HQ" Co, a fourth year cadet, played tiger football, baseball, and wrestled during his time at AMA. He was also in the Roller Rifles.



Mr. Foley's younger brother David, who passed us this notice, was a cadet at AMA in 1955. Another brother, Hampton Foley, graduated from AMA in 1955.

## Leave a legacy in stone

A perfect permanent way to remember an AMA friend is to purchase a paver brick in his honor.

There are nearly 1000 pavers already placed in front of the AMA Museum. You can spend an entire afternoon reading them all.

Bricks are available in two sizes:

4" x 8" are \$50

8" x 8" are \$100

The bricks are placed in front of the museum on the AMA campus and are the property of AMA.

Get an order form at:

<http://amaalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/paverOrderForm.pdf>

**PAVERS TELL  
AMA'S STORY**

**Gerald Wolfson, '61**

On Sunday, April 8, 2018, Gerald Alan Wolfson passed away at home surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of Elizabeth McClure Wolfson; loving father of Gregory Aaron, Marisa Elizabeth, and son-in-law Nicolas Morales; and grandfather of Luke Wolfson and Anthony Nicolas Morales.



Wolfson; loving father of Gregory Aaron, Marisa Elizabeth, and son-in-law Nicolas Morales; and grandfather of Luke Wolfson and Anthony Nicolas Morales.

Gerald was born in Baltimore, MD, on October 9, 1942, to the late Isadore Isaac Wolfson and Rosalie Yerman Wolfson, and was raised in Gaithersburg, MD. He attended Augusta Military Academy in Fort Defiance, VA, and graduated in 1961. He went on to earn a Bachelors in Engineering Technology from Capital Institute of Technology in 1967.

Fueled by a lifelong love of learning and technology, Gerald was a voracious reader of science fiction novels and an avid model train hobbyist. Always gregarious, Gerald chatted up friends and strangers with equal ease using his open charm and "Aw, Dad" sense of humor. A natural educator, Gerald loved to pass on the knowledge he had acquired. Family and friends would often remark, "if you ask Gerry the time, he'll tell you how the watch works."

Gerald had a long and distinguished career as a network systems engineer. At the Naval Research Laboratory, he worked on telemetry equipment for communicating with NASA's NIMBUS\_B satellite while afloat on an iceberg at the North Pole. This technology formed the precursor to modern GPS. He was a key contributor to Litton's autonomous vehicle navigation systems, which became central to the driverless car industry. As a Systems Architect at General Dynamic, he made key improvements to U.S. military radio communications that enabled for automatic sniper detection and tracking of troop movements.

Even in retirement, Gerald was generous with his time and expertise, using his programming skills to make numerous improvements to the layouts at his model train club. His friends and colleagues remember him as man of boundless innovative spirit and

enthusiasm, a helpful, all-around great friend who made a lasting impact on their lives.

During his four years at AMA, "Jerry" participated in the Cotillion Club and was a photographer for the Bayonet, and was an excellent musician

***Henry ... Continued from page 30***

**Garry Granger, '71**, noted this about Henry's Celebration of Life ceremony: A very nice and respectful service for Henry was held at their church in Floyd, VA. Fifteen AMA Alumni attended the packed church. The pastor described Henry as spiritual, loving and walking with Christ.

He and the Pastor met at Mark's home soon after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The pastor assumed Mark wanted to know "*why me*" or "*help me be closer to Christ*," all typical of these types of meetings. It was not the case here. Henry walked around the property showing off his land and explaining "*this is my sanctuary*," then asking the Pastor to take good care and look after his beautiful Sherri, his rock after he's gone. Mark's Daughter-in-Law spoke of heart felt sentiments and read aloud Henry's obituary (which he wrote [see page 30]). His son in law spoke of how, only knowing Mark for 6 years, he felt somewhat cheated that he didn't have more time with him

Two AMA alums stood and spoke. **Rick Smail, '67** spoke about Henry's dedication to his faith, his brotherhood and his family. He explained that no one caused him to belly laugh as much as Henry and that he never disappointed.

**Gordon Metz, '68**, spoke of Henry being his own man, doing things his way, teaching us how to live and how to die, and dedicated to his family. Gordon then highlighted Henry's "story telling ability," reminding all in attendance of several of Henry's most funny stories. The mood in the sanctuary often changed from tears to high decibel laughter.

Some 50+ friends and family attended the Celebration of Life at Henry and Sherri's home afterwards ... where delicious food and libations were plentiful as were the stories and heartfelt sympathy. We're grateful that Henry attended R2017.... grateful for his love of his family, "his friends and his AMA brothers. ***God Speed Henry !!!***

***Longmire continued from page 29***

think it's just inconvenient to make the pilgrimage back to Fort Defiance. Sometimes it's an emotional meeting for some bringing tears of joy have when they have met up with someone from their group or their class; there is nothing to be ashamed of guys. I can tell you that for those that are steady attendees at Reunions there is no better joy than meeting up with someone that is back for their first time. Even if there is no one from your years I guarantee you will make new friends who like you, share in the unique experience and brotherhood of Augusta. Life is short gentlemen: each year there are less and less AMA boys. See you in April!



**STONE FACE** breaks into a grin when his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Longmire, sits by him at Sponsors' Parade.



**Tom Del Valle** takes a turn at maintenance after our Board of Trustees meeting in June.

# Henry Femrite

## Mark Henry Femrite

07.23.52 – 07.15.18

By Garry Granger

“Henry,” as he was known at AMA, was Battalion Commander his Post Graduate year and Company Commander of “F” Company his senior year. Henry attended AMA four (4) years from 1969-1972 and celebrated graduation with the Class of 1971.

Born in Minneapolis, MN, his parents soon moved to Greensboro, NC. Henry found AMA from an ad in National Geographic and convinced his parents to allow him to attend. He loved fencing and was a member of the 1971 undefeated Fencing team at AMA. He was a master story teller....Henry could tell a story about a trip to the grocery store and have you rolling in the floor with his mastering of delivery and facial expressions. Henry had a Harley Davidson and rode for many years with the Roller Riders. Rick Smail '67 commented that “no one caused me to laugh as hard as Henry”.

While there are numerous recollections of Henry's stories...a few memorable ones include; riding on the back of Colonel Hoover's BMW Motorcycle; the lady working with him on a construction site with piercings; how he found relief after getting his long beard caught in a drill ...another classic was describing his sweet mother's reaction to a classroom visit with Colonel Hoover during parents weekend....extremely funny !!!

Henry was a Certified & Licensed Insurance Agent, a Carpenter / Contractor, one of Virginia Tech's biggest fans and an avid Civil War Reenactor. He started as a private in the 28th Virginia more than a decade ago. He was extremely respected as an authentic cook and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant

- Ordnance Aide. Classmate Charlie Hillsman '71 (Founder & Commander of Longstreets Corps) was a Major General and known as “General Chuck”, who recruited Henry as well as Nicky Syropoulos

'69 into Civil War reenacting.... Nicky is a Lt. Colonel - Ordnance Officer and Acting Adjutant for Longstreets Corps.

Henry's cancer caused him to be in Hospice for @ 11 months...during that time... he lived as he had forever, to the fullest...Henry had cancer....Cancer didn't have him...he remained active, sharp and focused on living a happy and productive life.

His wife Sherri was his rock and his children and grandchildren were there to bring him joy.

Cameron Crocker (Henry's daughter) was quoted saying” My Dad always told me he didn't care what I did in life, just be the best you can possibly be. I learned to be the best because of him and what he taught me. He was my hero and as it turns out, he was a hero to so many as well”

The house he built on the 50 acre property in Riner, VA (Floyd County) was his sanctuary.....he'd often carried guests on his “golf cart” across the creek to the cleared picnic and camping area where he felt most comfortable or entertained in his garage (AKA “Man Cave”).

Henry wrote his own obituary, saying “I always wanted to be a father and earned a PhD in raising kids and am proud of the life I've lived with Sherri, and my children & grandchildren”

“Mark taught us how to live.....he also taught us how to die” said Gordon Metz '68 (AMA Chaplin) who spoke at Henry's service. Gordon and his wife Brenda visited Henry & Sherri numerous times over the past year and a half.

God Speed Henry !!



Sherry and Mark “Henry” Femrite. They seldom missed a reunion.

*My Dad always  
told me he didn't  
care what I did  
in life, just be  
the best you can  
possibly be.*

# Henry Femrite

## Henry's obituary

July 23, 1952 July 15, 2018 I'm writing this because I don't want anyone to feel sad, but instead to celebrate life. As life goes on, we all have a limited warranty. My warranty ran out but you'll never see me in a coffin because I believe in recycling. I have no regrets. I always wanted to be a father and am proud of all my children. I am proud watching them raise my grandchildren. I earned a "PhD in raising kids" and am proud of the life I've lived with Sherri, and my grandchildren - my little diamonds who are still growing. Keep in touch with people. Don't lose touch with Sherri, who has been my rock. Stay active and keep your mind rolling. These are my thoughts, Mark was born on July 23, 1952 to the late Carolyn and Hawley Femrite.

Mark was a proud graduate of Augusta Military Academy, an all-boys school in Staunton, Va. which he discovered via an advertisement in the back of a National Geographic magazine. It was at "AMA" that he found his lifelong Band of Brothers. These friends are spread out around the world but have managed to still keep in touch, and when one would call the house asking for "Henry", Mark knew it was an AMA guy. He acknowledged that the stories told among these guys were highly embellished.

After graduating, Mark decided that he wanted to pursue higher education. However one year was enough ("I had too much fun" and "I wasn't an academic guy"). Mark entered the labor force, holding numerous jobs, and then decided to try the education-thing again. This time, he earned several certifications at community colleges while also working full time. Mark appreciated all those who believed in him and those who gave him jobs and opportunities.

Being a dad was Mark's "most special achievement" and a dream come true. The next greatest thing was bringing four children together in one family. He enjoyed being involved in the school PTA, Brownie Troops, and taking the kids to Salem baseball games.

Mark is survived by his wife Sherri; children Kyle, Cameron (spouse Travis), Beth (spouse Nathan), and Jacob (spouse Lauri); grandchildren Josh, Delia, Zoey, Keira, and Carsyn. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Augusta Military Academy or Sherri's church, The Presbyterian Church of Floyd. Online condolences may be made <http://www.gardnerfuneralhomefloyd.com> or on Facebook @ gardnerfuneralhomefloyd. The family is being served by Gardner Funeral Home.



AMA alumni gathered for Henry's Celebration of Life. Left to Right: Garry Granger, '71; Charlie Whiting, '69; Bruce Orenstein, '69; Steve Trent, '70; Nicki Syropolous, '69; Victor Gomez, '69; Stride Coleman, '72; Rick Smail, '67; Ed Rogerville, '76; Ricky Ellett, '72; Doug Pennock, '72; Jim Atcheson, '73; Gordon Metz, '68; Lewie Kennett, '72; and Brett Thompson, '75.

See Henry ... Continued on page 29

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Garry Granger, '71, Tom Del Valle, '73, Jorge Rovirosa, '70, and Doug Pennock, '72 stand on the steps to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Even though our much anticipated Wreath Laying ceremony was postponed due to expected inclement weather from Hurricane Florence, the four made their way to Arlington nonetheless. Later that weekend the four made their way to Fort Defiance, where they stood guard and docent duty at the museum.



Henry was a four-year cadet at AMA, graduating 1972 with the rank of Cadet Colonel, Battalion Commander. He played lacrosse, and was commander of the Roller Rifles.

Henry attended 15 of the last 22 Reunions. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the last 9 years. He was a regular donor to the foundation, a member of the 300-Club, the Roller Society, and the President's Council.

Henry was an ardent supporter of everything connected with AMA and regularly encouraged participation from other alumni. He held nothing back.



Doug Pennock, '72, brought his drone to the campus this summer and took some stunning photos.